THE NEW
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ISRAEL's AIR STRIKE RAZES MEDIA BUILDING IN GAZA

Israeli air strikes pounded the Gaza Strip on Saturday and razed a building housing media outlets like AP, Al Jazeera

INTEL ON HAMAS MILITANTS PROMPTED STRIKE

The Israelis flattened the 13-floor building after issuing an evacuation warning. Israel claimed Hamas activists were holed up in the building. Israeli air and artillery strikes on Gaza since Monday have killed 139 people and wounded 1,000 more. Palestinian armed groups have fired 2,300 rockets at Israel, killing 10 people. Over 560 Israelis have been wounded | P9

WEST BANK, SYRIA & LEBANON ON THE BOIL

- Violence raged in West Bank during what Palestinians mark as Nakba, the 'catastrophe' of Israel's creation in 1948, on Saturday
- In the north, where Israel is at war with Syria and Lebanon, tensions were rising; 3 rockets were launched from Syria on Friday
- UN Security Council will meet on Sunday to address the violence

ONE

HIZBOLLAH MILITANT KILLED IN BID TO INFILTRATE ISRAEL FROM LEBANON

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Covid +ve? Consult doc. Don't panic & rush for O_2, ICU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TO be worried if you have Covid symptoms and have tested positive is entirely understandable. But please do not panic. And, for your own sake, do not self-diagnose and/or self-medicate. Consult your physician on the way forward. If the symptoms are mild, there is no need to rush to hospitals seeking admission and it is pointless worrying about arranging oxygen and drugs like Remdesivir.

For, most people infected with novel coronavirus get cured on their own with minimal medical intervention. Only a small percentage of patients need medical oxygen support and round-the-clock attention in a hospital. Ditto with Remdesivir. It's not for everyone.

TNIE spoke to doctors across India and they say they have come across panicky patients and their attendants insisting on ICU or oxygen beds, irrespective of the condition of the patient. Their angst may have been triggered by scary reports of deaths due to oxygen shortage and scarcity of certain life-saving drugs. But this further burdens the country's already creaky health infrastructure.

Let's bear in mind that 85% of Covid patients do not require hospitalisation. However, the scare around the ongoing second wave of the disease is such that many people start scouting for hospital beds as soon as they test positive.

Doctors in Karnataka say there have been instances of families of Covid-19 patients with mild to moderate symptoms pulling strings to get ICU beds. What they actually end up doing is to block admission of serious patients who really need critical care to survive.

"It has become another job for the already overburdened doctors to educate attendants about the patient's condition," said Dr C Arunkumar, medical superintendent, KIMS hospital, Hubballi, Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Cairn goes after Air India to get $1.72 bn from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE retrospective tax dispute between Cairn Energy Plc and the Indian government has taken a curious turn with the UK-based company filing a lawsuit in a US district court seeking to make Air India liable for enforcement of the $1.2-billion arbitration award it won in December 2020.

An international arbitration court in December last year had ruled against India's decision to retrospectively tax the capital gains made when Cairn UK Holdings Ltd sold shares in Cairn India Holdings Ltd, a Jersey company, to Cairn India Ltd, an Indian company. The arbitration court also awarded Cairn $1.2 billion damages plus interest and costs, which come to around $1.72 billion. India has challenged it in an appropriate court in The Hague.

Why did Cairn sue Air India? "The nominal distinction between (Govt of) India and Air India is illusory, and serves only to aid India in improperly shielding its assets from creditors," the lawsuit says. The implication is that it could lead to seizing of Air India's overseas assets to recover the dues from the Indian government.

Meanwhile, sources said the government has not received any notice on the matter.

Health workers checking on Covid-19 patients at the newly-built 500-ICU bed care centre in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

Second wave weakening, situation stable: Centre

Active infections down for fifth day in a row; national recovery rate improved to 83.88%; Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, UP show drop in cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday said the second wave of Covid-19 has started weakening with recoveries surpassing the fresh cases and the overall test positivity rate coming down to 19.8% from 21.9 % last week.

"Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh have reported a decline in active cases. The cause of concern is Tamil Nadu where a rise in the number of active cases has been reported in the past one week," said Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry.

Currently, 11 states have over one lakh active cases, while 17 have less than 50,000 cases.

V K Paul, member (health), Niti Aayog and chairman of the national Covid-19 task force, said the overall Covid-19 situation in the country is showing signs of improvement.

"It is evident we can see a certain amount of stabilisation of the second wave of the pandemic. Some states have shown a clear pattern, in some states there are concerns and, in some others, there is a trend towards an increase," said Paul, adding that it's a mixed picture. "But overall, the situation is stabilising and we hope and we will work towards ensuring further stabilisation and rapid decline of this pandemic," he added.

KARNATAKA	MAY 14	MAY 15
Fresh cases	41,779	41,664
Recoveries	35,879	34,425
Deaths	373	349

The details shared by the government showed that 10 states account for 85% of the total Covid cases in the country and 24 states have a test positivity rate of more than 15%.

Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have reported a major drop in case positivity rates.

On Saturday, India registered a total of 3,26,098 Covid-19 cases that took the overall tally to 2,43,72,907 but the active Covid cases came down by 31,091 compared to Friday. This is the fifth day in a row that active infections have come down.

The active cases now stand at 36,73,802 and comprise 15% of the total infections, while the national recovery rate has improved to 83.83%.

On a positive note, the number of districts with over 10% test positivity rate, which stood at 533 a week ago has now come down to 516.

PRESENT VACCINE SCENE AS ON MAY 14 AS PER HEALTH DEPT

Beneficiaries	18-44 yrs
Total target	3.26 cr
Due for first dose	3.25 cr
Due for second dose	1 lakh
Total doses required	6.51 cr

Task force draws new vax plan

The State Covid Task Force has decided that the current Covaxin stock will be given to those waiting for their second dose six weeks after taking the first. Also, the second dose of Covishield will be given to those having completed 12 weeks after first dose. P4

It'll be a long wait in state for 18+ to get the vaccine

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government faces a major challenge in vaccinating an estimated 3.26 crore people in the 18-44 age-group - the largest segment of society - to protect them from Covid-19, ahead of the anticipated third wave which is expected to be more severe and peak in October-November this year.

The state will need an approximate of 6.51 crore doses of vaccines to inoculate the population in the 18-44 age group. Between May 1 and May 14, when inoculation for this segment was opened, the state vaccinated up to 1,12,373 people. But the government has since indefinitely suspended vaccination for people of this age group at all government facilities.

According to experts, lack of Central supplies will most likely leave this age-group waiting for long to complete administration of both doses.

"It is mostly by July second week that the vaccination for this age group will restart. There is a major supply issue and the priority for the government now is to vaccinate all the 45+ population with at least one dose and finish vaccinating the second dose for those who are due," said Dr Manjunath C N, nodal officer for testing, and also member of the state Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

VAX WORRIES-1

A senior doctor said the Centre's announcement of vaccinating those between 18-44 years and leaving it to the discretion of the states was a faulty move.

CONTINUED ON: P4

...AND HOW TO BRACE FOR IT
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Cabinet pushing papers in the shadow of PMO

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet has met at least five times since the second wave of the pandemic began in late March or early April, but not a single decision was related to the ongoing surge, at least that is what can be concluded from the information the government has made available.

All that the Cabinet has done since April 1 is take insignificant decisions on metro projects, memorandum of understanding with other nations and productivity linked schemes.

For instance on April 20, when the second wave was about to peak and patients were scurrying for non-existent hospital beds and oxygen, all that the Cabinet cleared was the second phase of Bengaluru's metro project and MoUs with New Zealand, Australia, Bangladesh and Brazil. In the last meeting on May 12, the Cabinet transfered ITBP land to the Uttarakhand government for Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project. The absence of any role of the Cabinet in the health crisis is in sharp contrast to almost all critical decisions being driven by the PMO to control the pandemic. After the PM canceled all public rallies for the latter phases of the Bengal elections, he reached out to a number of CMs either on the phone or virtually to take stock of the pandemic. The PM also held a video conference with 10 of them on April 23.

Empower ASHA staff

In yet another PMO-driven meeting, the PM asked senior officials to empower ASHA and Anganwadi workers, besides calling for distribution plan on oxygen | P7

Besides, the PM has been holding scores of virtual meetings with stakeholders to deal with specific issues concerning oxygen, medicines, vaccines, hospitals, which are attended by the officials and experts. The non-involvement of the Cabinet in the Centre's response has raised eyebrows and suggestions that the Cabinet system of governance is being weakened.

CONTINUED ON: P7

NATIONWIDE	MAY 14	MAY 15
Fresh cases	3,43,144	3,26,098
Recoveries	3,44,776	3,53,299
Deaths	4,000	3,890

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
May 14 **10,79,759 doses**
May 15 **17,14,247 doses**
TOTAL DOSES: 18,21,99,668

PM to interact with DCs of 17 districts in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will directly interact with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of 17 districts in Karnataka, via video conference on Tuesday morning.

The administrative heads of Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Kodagu, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Udupi, Shivamogga, Dharwad, Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Kalaburgi, Mandya and Chikkaballapur will be part of the PM's interaction with other officers from high Covid-19 case load districts.

The PM's interaction comes at a time when the situation in the state remains grim with a high case positivity rate and an increase in deaths over the last few weeks. The surge in the number of cases in the districts, particularly in rural areas, is a major cause for concern as the health infrastructure is overwhelmed and Covid-19 patients are finding it difficult to get oxygenated beds.

The PM will be joined by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa during his direct interaction with officers at the district level.

The Chief Minister's Office has directed the DCs to be prepared for the meeting with all relevant details about the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Torrential rains preceding Cyclone Tauktae turned the sea violent on the western coast of India. A rocky beachfront at Mangaluru in Karnataka (left) bore the brunt of powerful tidal waves; (Right) There was much damage seen in Kerala, as the rising waters flooded settlements along the seafront | EXPRESS

Heavy rain batters Kerala, 8 fishermen go missing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

RAIN and strong winds, triggered by Cyclone Tauktae, continued to batter Kerala for the third straight day, uprooting trees, blocking traffic, snapping power lines, destroying houses and inundating low-lying areas across the state on Saturday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rain will subside on Sunday but sea will continue to be rough for a couple of days. The cyclone has intensified and moved to Karnataka coast by Saturday evening. However, high tidal waves continued to pound Kerala's coastal areas, damaging houses and inundating fishermen hamlets. Eight fishermen, who had ventured into the sea from Kochi on May 1 for deep-sea fishing, went missing as their longliner boat capsized mid-sea, off Lakshadweep coast, on Saturday.

The flood gates of Malankara, Lower Periyar, Kallarkutty, Bhoothathan Kettu and Aruvikkara dams were opened. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan said the state has opened 71 relief camps where 2,094 people are sheltered. P5, 8

Landfall in Gujarat, coastal areas at risk

The IMD on Saturday said that cyclone Tauktae would touch Gujarat coast between Porbandar and Naliya around May 18 with a wind speed ranging up to 175 kmph. It also warned of storm surge of two-three metre above astronomical tide to inundate coastal areas

Coastal districts in K'taka bear the brunt of Tauktae

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru, Udupi, Karwar

MORE than 50 families were evacuated in Dakshina Kannada district after Cyclone Tauktae hit the region, triggering heavy rainfall and leaving many houses damaged since Friday night.

Sources in the district administration said several houses located close to the sea at Someshwara and Ullal were damaged after the sea turned rough and inundated the residential areas nearby.

Sources said 14 families in Someshwara were shifted to a relief camp set up at a madrasa, while eight more families were shifted to a government relief centre in Ullal. Other families were evacuated from Panambur, Mulky and other places. Many evacuated people have taken shelter in their relatives' houses.

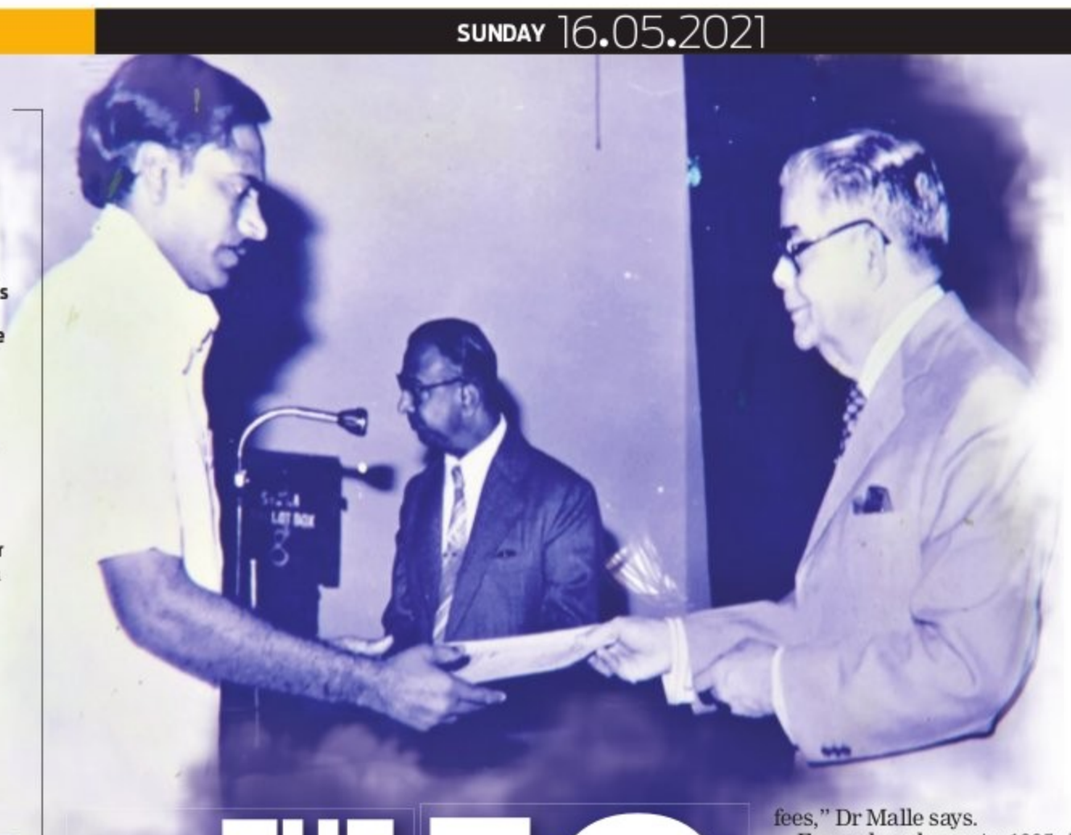
The district administration has opened more than 20 relief camps in Mangaluru taluk alone where the affected people can move in. Many structures along the coast in Someshwara, Uchcil and other places came crashing down after strong waves hit them.

CONTINUED ON: P5

ALMANAC TODAY
• Sunday: 16/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishala • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Chaturthi 6.11 am
• Nakshatra: Ardra 7.55 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
• Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Cloudy

Sunrise 5.54 am
Sunset 6.38 pm
Moonrise 9.16 am
Moonset 10.34 pm



THE POWER OF 10

With service to humankind as his motto, this good doctor of Kalaburagi has kept his fee rock bottom low

It is common to see hundreds of patients outside Dr Malle's clinic. Patients are from poorer sections of society, Dalits, and include some from upper classes too. He prescribes tests and refers patients to experts only if required. He always greets patients with a smile and asks about their health with affection. This endears him to his patients.

— Chandrashekhar Hiremath, founder president, Shramajeevigala Vedike, a regular visitor for two decades

We are lucky to have this doctor, our diseases and pains definitely get cured once he treats us

— Dyamavva Dodmani, a patient for three decades

Among the honours, Dr Malhar Rao Malle was recognised for his services over the years by various governors of Karnataka

HONOURS

Dr Malle has received a clutch of awards for his service to society:

Honorary Doctorate in Social Service & Humanity by National Virtual University for Peace and Education (2019)

International Man of the Year award (for social work) at 22nd International Cultural Fest, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2019)

Bharat Jyoti award by India International Friendship Society (2018)

Felicitated by former Karnataka governors -- Govind Narayan, V S Ramadevi, T N Chaturvedi, Hansraj Bhardwaj

Dr Malhar Rao Malle administers a Covid vaccine at a Primary Health Centre

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI
@Kalaburagi

IN a world where the poor cannot afford to fall sick – a situation made worse by the pandemic – a doctor in the North Karnataka city of Kalaburagi charges his patients only Rs 20, earning much respect. Until recently, he charged only Rs 10, and locally, he's still known as the 'Hatthu rupayee doctor' – literally, the doctors who charges Rs 10.

Seventy-five-year-old Dr Malhar Rao Malle runs a modest clinic in the Jagat locality of Kalaburagi. He completed his MBBS in 1974 and worked for several years under Dr Vithal Rao Palnitkar to gain experience. Around this time, he decided to change professions, and pursued a degree in law, so that he could emulate his father. Completed his law degree in 1984, he was about start practising as a criminal lawyer, when his father's advice brought about a change of heart.

"My father, Kishan Rao Mall,e showed me a verse in the Bhagwad Gita which talked about a doctor's work being yeoman's service to humankind. He told me a doctor should not become an advocate only to earn money. His advice made me a human being and I decided to serve the needy by charging affordable fees," Dr Malle says.

For a decade up to 1995, Dr Malle didn't charge patients any consultation fee. "I only collected Rs 3 for penicillin injections. I earned around Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000 a month from that," says the doctor. Back then, syringes made of glass were sterilised before and after each use, and he only had to pay to procure the medicine, an antibiotic used to treat a wide range of infections.

In 1995, during India's rapid liberalisation, Dr Malle began to charge patients Rs 10, when other doctors charged around Rs 60.

The cost of living has shot up in the 25 years since, but the good doctor's fees have not kept pace. Today, one kg of jola (jowar) – a staple food in the region – costs Rs 45, and wages under the employment guarantee law are Rs 350 a day. Other doctors have moved on to Rs 100 as consultation charge, but Dr Malle continued with his magic number 10, until October last. Even then, he only went so far as to double the meagre amount.

Four years ago, when his daughter Shubha completed her MBBS degree, she told him to raise his consultation fee. "I told her I had educated her with Rs 10 as fee. I earned more than Rs 1,000 a day, and that was enough," he says.

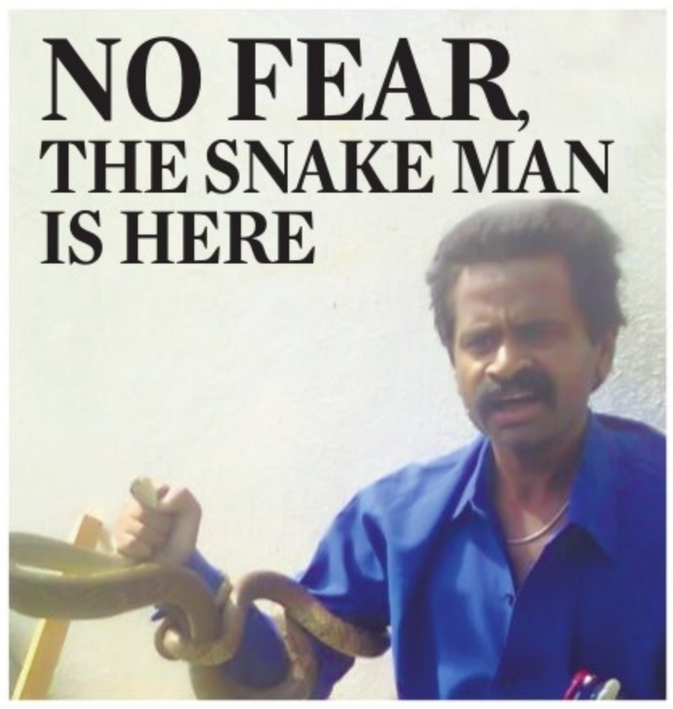
Honorary service with medical organisations St John Ambulance and Red Cross Society also brought in some money. Even today, Dr Malle is a secretary to St John Ambulance, although he gave up that position at Red Cross. Through these two organisations, Dr Malle organised 142 blood donation camps and ran 62 health camps in slums and rural areas over the past two decades. He has himself donated blood 54 times.

Until a few months ago, he worked a full day. But now, he only treats patients between 10am and 1.30pm. Age has caught up with him, but he still supervises vaccination at an Urban Primary Health Centre.

NO FEAR, THE SNAKE MAN IS HERE

Mysurean Girish's hobby is rescuing and releasing snakes, and his disability is no hindrance to this

AJITH M S @ Mysuru



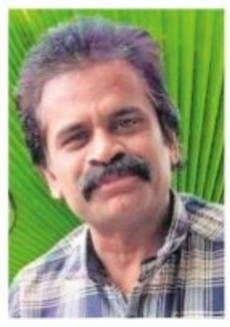
Girish is a known name among snake rescuers in Mysuru | EXPRESS

PUSHED out of home by a serpent slithering in their living room, a family on the outskirts of Mysuru city waits in trepidation, until **Girish M** rides up on his specially-designed scooter for the physically challenged.

Girish darts into the house with his crutches, and in no time, lures out the snake from under a cot in the living room. Swiftly, he plucks the hissing reptile and stuffs it into a bag, ready to be released into the wild.

The ease with which Girish performs his task belies the fact that his movement is constrained, and he needs his crutches. In a world where society willy-nilly pushes the physically challenged to the fringes and pre-judges their abilities, Girish is of great help to Mysureans who suddenly come upon snakes in their homes and gardens.

Girish, who works as an office assistant at a private company during the day, says rescuing snakes is now his hobby, and he is driven to catch snakes and release them, purely by his passion and empathy towards animals.



The man who was left with a motor disability when a tree fell on him when he was 18 years old, crushing his spine, says he took up this rather unconventional hobby after he was witness to a chilling drama. "I was pursuing my diploma after the tree fall which left me disabled, when I saw a snake being beaten up and left to die. It was struggling to move, and reminded me of the accident that had left me helpless and in pain. That is when I decided to help these reptiles who are among the most wonderful of all species," he said.

Starting off with smaller snakes on his college premises and at homes nearby, Girish scaled up his snake rescue activities after he met K Manu and Guruprasad P of the Mysore Amateur Naturalists in Mysuru. "When they learnt about my interest and concern for the reptiles, they taught me tactics to catch and bag them, and also how to identify snake species. I am now a member of Mysore Amateur Naturalists," he said.

Girish is a known name among snake rescuers in Mysuru, and gets many calls from across the city. He claims to have rescued 2,618 snakes by himself so far, and released them into the forests, with a 6-ft cobra being the largest and most recent one.

But his expertise did not come easy and nearly cost him his life during the initial days. "While doing my diploma at JSS Institute, I had captured a snake from the college campus. I got bitten while shifting it into the bag, and was lucky to get to hospital on time. I was hospitalised for a few days. I did not have much expertise then, but ever since, there hasn't been a single misstep from my side," he said.

Girish's family is very supportive and has never discouraged him from rescuing snakes. "My wife Shakuntala has been my pillar of support, or I would not have been able to continue with my hobby, as there are many people with pre-conceived notions who advise me against it," says Girish.

Their daughter Anargya Nidhi, who is waiting to write her SSLC exams, shares Girish's interest and empathy for reptiles. "I wanted her to overcome her fear, and she has been helping me release non-poisonous snakes into the wild," he said.

It is during the lockdown that people like Girish have a lot more work on his hands. With mobility norms turning more stringent of late, he says he is getting ready for busier days as wildlife tends to venture out when the human race is restricted indoors. He recalls that this was the case during last year's lockdown too.

SNAKES RESCUED

2,618

The reptiles were released into the wild. He has rescued a 6-ft cobra which was his largest snake till date and the most recent one

I was pursuing my diploma after the tree fall which left me disabled, when I saw a snake being beaten up and left to die. It was struggling to move, and reminded me of the accident that had left me helpless and in pain. That is when I decided to help these reptiles who are among the most wonderful of all species

— Girish M

Extend lockdown, break the chain, counsels DVS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Traffic police personnel check vehicles for violations during the lockdown in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

UNION Minister DV Sadananda Gowda on Saturday said there is a drop in Covid-19 cases, so the lockdown has benefited the people and should be extended. He asserted that there is a responsibility before the government, and it should not fail at this moment.

Gowda said it is important to save lives, and though it is a difficult decision, the lockdown should be extended to control the spread of the virus. He was speaking to the media on the sidelines of the inauguration of a Covid Care Centre at Kempegowda Community Hall in Nandini Layout. The CCC has 46 oxygenated beds.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said that cases in Bengaluru were falling due to the lockdown, and generally, cases start dropping 8-10 days after curbs are imposed. If people continue to stay home, the chain can be effectively broken, he said.

Gupta also admitted that cases were reducing because only targeted testing was being done. However, the positivity rate is not seeing a dip because those tested show symptoms or are patient contacts. Testing has slipped because earlier, random tests were done at bus stands, railway stations and marketplaces, which is not being done now due to the lockdown. In the coming days, area-wise aggressive testing will be taken up, he added.

Later in the day, 100 oxygenated beds were inaugurated at Haj Bhavan. Three mobile vans are also doing the rounds to provide oxygen to patients in critical need.

On vaccination, Gowda said when the drive had started, only 40-42 per cent of those aged above 45 years came forward for testing. Gradually, when cases started rising and the age bracket was expanded, there was a rush. Looking at the crowd, the State and Central governments are now rethinking a policy change in the vaccination programme, and priority will be given to those aged above 45.

The government has set a target to increase 100 oxygen beds and to mitigate oxygen shortage, all CCCs are being equipped with oxygen cylinders and concentrators.

Cases in Bengaluru are falling due to the lockdown, and generally, cases start dropping 8-10 days after curbs are imposed

Gaurav Gupta, BBMP chief commissioner

WHEN GOING GETS TOUGH

CCCs go upscale, hotels offer services now

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru:

A Covid-19 infection may lose its sting in a luxury star hotel, or so go the advertisements of hotels inviting patients to pamper themselves in serene surroundings, in complete isolation.

With business all but coming to a halt, hotels are thinking out of the box and circulating brochures, stating that they are taking hospitality one step forward for Covid patients who wish to spend time in isolation. On offer is free Wi-Fi, parking, television, room service and medical attention on call, apart from meals, refreshments twice a day, besides regular guidance from doctors and nurses. The package is for rooms with single or double occupancy, for the 10-55 age group.

Hotels share that they have tied up with particular hospitals to set up Covid Care Centres, like The Lalit Ashok is partnering Apollo Hospitals, while Yo Hotel is tying up with Sagar Hospital in Jayanagar.

According to the Hotels and Restaurants' Association, 32 hotels have tied up with 12 hospitals in Bengaluru. Association members say: "Since the hotel industry is seeing a lull, this is the best way to make some money. We are trying to get citizens to stay in hotels, as most of them are vacant. It is creative and sends a positive message, and is not just happening in Bengaluru."

"I was surprised to get a brochure on email and WhatsApp from a hotel-cum-casino in Goa, that they are open and have qualified doctors and nurses to help out. With the Covid cases and lockdown, I was very gloomy, this brought a ray of hope and reason to visit Goa," said Abhishek Mehra, a software professional who recently recovered from Covid-19.

State gets 240 MT of oxygen via rail

A second consignment of 240 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) for Karnataka reached Bengaluru on Saturday through two special Oxygen Express trains, each bearing six cryogenic containers. The second Oxygen Express reached Inland Container Depot at Whitefield at 3.20am, from Kalinga Nagar in Odisha, carrying 120 tonnes of LMO. A third Oxygen Express left Tatanagar in Jharkhand on Friday and reached Whitefield on Saturday.

Restaurants now provide food to Covid patients

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

"I was admitted to St John's Hospital for Covid-19 treatment. The first day when I was given food, I realised that it was not the regular hospital food as it tasted different. I found that it was from a popular restaurant chain, which was also delivering to patients. So I decided to order from them to the hospital," said Santosh (name changed).

When this went on for a few days the hospital staffers started having doubts. On inquiring, they found that a patient was ordering food. When questioned, he said, "The quantity prescribed by the dietitian was insufficient so he ordered an additional plate from the same restaurant so that no one has any doubts," said the hospital management. Many such instances are being reported since restaurants have taken up catering contracts with hospitals. Many hospitals which have no canteen and those that have one but are unable to take the load, have also joined hands with restaurants. "A person is admitted to the hospital for around 5-7 days, so why not ensure that he/she gets healthy and delicious food. It is also a win-win situation for restaurants. As many have no business due to the lockdown, they can get some income," said Veerendra Kamat, Secretary, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association.

Around 20-25 restaurants have tied-up with hospitals to supply food. Many restaurants have also started supplying food to those in home isolation free of cost.

"Last year, during the lockdown, we had fed many migrant labourers. This year, my daughters said we should instead help those in home isolation. This is because in most cases, people stay alone or the entire family is positive and cannot cook. The BU number is verified after which the food is delivered fir free. The patient has to only bear the food delivery app's service charges," said R Ravindran, president, hotel association.

Some other restaurants, to make ends meet, have started supplying food to patients in Covid care centres and even to medical staffers at a minimal cost.

The Mines and Geology department has decided to procure 1,000 oxygen concentrators and distribute them to all districts. It was also decided to set up a nursing college at Hutti Gold Mines camp site hospital, a statement from the Mines and Geology minister's office said

PM NEEDS TO TALK ABOUT 'KAAM KI BAAT'

BANSY KALLAPA @ Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

LEADER of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha **Mallikarjuna Kharge** speaks about the Central government faltering on the Covid front and why doles are necessary to the poor at this time:

On March 17, 2021, in a Covid review meeting with Chief Ministers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had warned about the second wave in India, when we had only 30,000 new cases per day. Despite this, did the Centre falter on planning?
Yes, they failed to plan and organise themselves. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and myself have written letters offering suggestions, but instead of taking suggestions, they have criticised us. A man whose abilities as a doctor are suspect, replied to Manmohan Singh, someone else replied to me, nobody replied to Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Let us remember the Congress got 11 crore votes, while they got 19 crore votes, and they are not interested in our suggestions. There is no scope for discussion in this government. There is a serious vaccine shortage, they announce vaccines for 18-45 age group, but are not able to achieve it, they are unable to provide second dose of vaccine for the 45-60 age category, there is severe shortage of medicines, ICU beds, and thousands are dying. Instead of Mann ki Baat, the PM needs to talk about 'Kaam ki baat'. It is loud and clear that they faltered on planning, and what's worse, they are too arrogant to listen to anyone, as the replies to our letters indicate.

The Congress has said people should be given Rs 10,000. Isn't this a burden on the exchequer?
Should people die of starvation? Is money more important than people? Should you save money or people? I would say we should give money to the poor and marginalised to tide over this crisis, because many have lost their livelihood and jobs, especially daily wage labourers. We have our trained workforce, the government has invested so much to train them as doctors and engineers, what happens if they die because there are no jobs? Isn't it a loss for the nation? Look at the condition of migrant workers. There has to be some provision to help the poor.

Former PM Manmohan Singh, Congress Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and myself have written letters offering suggestions, but instead, they have criticised us
Mallikarjuna Kharge

There has been an uproar over Youth Congress National President B V Srinivas, who was questioned by Delhi Police.
Srinivas was doing an excellent job, serving people during the Covid crisis. The government will not tolerate that. It is Youth Congress volunteers who are working on the direction of former party president Rahul Gandhi. They are trying to stop our volunteers and demoralise them. They want to know who has given the money and resources for oxygen and other help we are providing. Now some donors prefer to remain anonymous, this is an effort to expose them and try to embarrass them.

There have been complaints that NGOs have been stopped from distributing oxygen concentrators...
In any crisis, everyone steps in to help. While the government has not done its bit, it doesn't want others to help either. They are concerned that NGOs should not take the credit for help received by people.

Your party has said it will chip in with Rs 100 crore?
Yes, our MLAs will offer this amount from Local Area Development grants. Each MLA is entitled to spend a certain sum of money for development, and they are putting together this amount from those funds. At the Working Committee meeting, Sonia Gandhi asked Congressmen to do this. These are difficult days and we need to do our bit to help.

What would you have done differently if your government was in power?
Our party has a consultative democratic process. Because we consulted so much, some criticised our government as weak. We inherently believe in participation of all, we are not dictatorial.

There was an interesting article recently about what Nehru would have done in this situation. Remember we took everyone along. In 1971, because of the war, Indira Gandhi was praised by BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee simply because everyone was consulted and united in tackling problems.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa interacts with doctors from various districts through video conference in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

CM gives doctors, paramedical staff a morale boost

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru:

TO boost the morale of doctors treating Covid-19 patients, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday interacted with doctors working in Covid hospitals in different parts of the state, including Bengaluru. Appreciating doctors for working relentlessly to save lives, the CM appealed to them to have a compassionate and humane approach in the fight against the pandemic. "Doctors are rendering selfless service, putting themselves and their families at risk. The government is committed to ensuring their welfare," the CM said. He also appreciated the contribution of all paramedical staffers and healthcare workers, who are supporting the doctors.

During the interaction, the CM said the infection was spreading very fast in the second wave, taking a toll on the healthcare system. He apprised them about the measures taken by the government to ensure the availability of oxygen, beds and necessary medicines in hospitals.

Dr Triveni, from Mysuru, highlighted the practice of people self-medicating, without the supervision of doctors. Such practices should be changed and people should approach doctors if they have any symptoms, the doctor said. The CM also enquired about the health of the doctor and her daughter who had recently recovered from Covid. She expressed gratitude for this kind gesture from the CM, said a statement from the CM's office.

Interacting with Dr Meenakshi D Muttappanavar from Vijayapura, the CM asked whether she had taken the vaccine. The doctor replied that she was serving with much more confidence as she had been vaccinated.

Dr Lakshmipati from KC General Hospital in Bengaluru informed the CM that doctors and staffers of the hospital have been staying in the hospital since the beginning of the second wave, the statement from the CMO said.

The CM also interacted with doctors working in Covid hospitals in Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Mangaluru, Belagavi, Hassan and Shivamogga.

MINERAL FOUNDATION FUND TO BE USED TO BUY O_2 TANKERS

The state government on Saturday decided to utilise the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for the purchase of oxygen tankers, oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters and other emergency medical needs. A meeting chaired by Mines and Geology Minister Murugesh R Nirani decided to utilise funds available under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund to tackle the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, said a statement issued by the minister's office. As per the decisions taken at the meeting, the authorities will procure 10 cryogenic oxygen tankers -- two each will be provided to four revenue divisions in the state, and two oxygen tankers will be sent to the coastal region. Regional Commissioners will be given the power to manage and monitor the movements of these oxygen tankers, the statement said. **ENS**

No home isolation in urban slums: DyCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO bring down the mortality rate by avoiding late reporting to hospitals, the State Government on Saturday decided to do away with home isolation for Covid patients at villages and slum areas in cities.

"This is to ensure that they get admitted mandatorily at Covid Care Centres (CCCs)," Deputy Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman Dr CN Ashwath Narayan told reporters after the task force meeting, which was also attended by Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar and senior officials.

In rural areas, CCCs will be set up at primary health centres and deputy commissioners will be entrusted with the responsibility of making arrangements for isolation and treatment also at places like hostels, he said. Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) will be conducted at the doorsteps of people in hotspots, he added.

The task force decided that 100 ICU beds will be made available in every district hospital; 100 oxygenated beds, including 25 ICU beds, at taluk hospitals and 10 oxygenated beds at PHCs. The task force took a decision to purchase 1,000 oxygen utility regulatory devices developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Of them, 900 will be the automatic model which costs Rs 10,000 each and 100 will be the manual model that is priced at Rs 6,000 each.

The DyCM said that oxygen bottling plants will be set up in nine districts and oxygen generators of 200-300 litre/minute at community health centres.

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Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured Creditor, the Actual Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor on 05.08.2020, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 24.06.2021, for recovery of Rs.74,82,947.00 [Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Seven Only] under OD A/c No. 0557000100016401 along with future interest from 01.05.2021, plus costs due to the Karnataka Bank Ltd – Bengaluru Malleshwaram Branch, the Secured creditor from – (1) M/s R S Ram Properties (P) Ltd., represented by its Directors: (a) Mr. Raghuram R (b) Mr. Vijayendra Kumar KH addressed at: No.27/1, 2nd Floor, 17th Cross, 10th Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru -560086, (2) Mr. Raghuram R. S/o Late Ramachandraappa addressed at: 28/1, 6th Main, 9th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, (3) Mr. Vijayendra Kumar KH S/o Mr.Hanumaiah addressed at: 4329, 2nd Cross, 13th Main, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru-560021 being the borrower/ guarantor/ mortgagor.
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STAY WISE STAY SAFE
The first step to keep COVID outside your doors is to get vaccinated, as many have done. You must protect yourself by following the preventive COVID protocols such as wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and sanitizing. Also, limit the need to step out. Let's together overcome the pandemic and see a better tomorrow.
Get Vaccinated | Sanitize frequently | Wear a Mask | Maintain social distancing
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THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SUNDAY 16.05.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

41,664 CASES REPORTED TODAY

41,779 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	21,71,931
YESTERDAY	21,30,267

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
349	373

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
34,425	35,879

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
6,05,494	5,98,605

POSITIVITY RATE
TODAY 7.82%
YESTERDAY 7.70%

MORTALITY RATE
TODAY 0.98%
YESTERDAY 0.98%

RECOVERY RATE
TODAY 71.13%
YESTERDAY 70.90%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 15, 2021, a total of 21,71,931 cases have been reported in 1 year and 65 days...

1,11,49,833 Number of people vaccinated across the state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Health care workers 1st dose	6,97,490
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,59,854
Frontline workers 1st dose	4,85,810
Frontline workers 2nd dose	1,93,334
Age 18-45 1st dose	1,12,373
Age 45st dose	73,76,980
Age 45 2nd dose	18,23,992

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

13,402 BENGALURU URBAN

1,265 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakot: 584	Chamarajanagara: 535	Dakshina Kannada: 1,787	Hassan: 2,443	Kolar: 778	Raichuru: 467	Udupi: 1,146
Ballari: 1,622	Chikkaballapur: 595	Davanagere: 292	Haveri: 267	Koppal: 630	Ramanagara: 524	Uttara Kannada: 1,226
Belagavi: 1,502	Chikkamagaluru: 1,093	Dharwad: 901	Kalaburagi: 832	Mandya: 1,188	Shivamogga: 1,081	Vijayapura: 789
Bidar: 185	Chitradurga: 454	Gadag: 459	Kodagu: 483	Mysuru: 2,489	Tumakuru: 2,302	Yadagir: 343

6-week gap must for second Covaxin shot: Task force

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The State Covid Task Force on Saturday decided that the available stock of Covid vaccine Covaxin will be given on priority to those who have completed six weeks after taking the first shot.

To avoid spreading of infection at vaccination venues, the shots will be administered outside primary health centres (PHCs) and places like school grounds.

The second dose of Covishield will be given to only those who have completed 12 weeks from the first dose and those who are above 45 years old, the task force decided.

New app

On vaccinating the 18-44 age group, Deputy Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said that a new app needs to be developed that will be interfaced with CoWin App. The vaccination schedule will be prepared after taking into account the availability of vaccines.

Priority will be given to those working in the postal department, agricultural department, bank employees, internet service providers and street vendors, he said.

Global tender

The task force approved Rs 843 crore to procure two crore doses of vaccines by floating global tenders, which will be split into four parts of Rs 50 lakh each. This is to help the government procure vaccines from different firms at the earliest, the Deputy Chief Minister said.

Other decisions taken by the task force include for each bed, Rs 10 will be given to facilitate disposal of waste in government hospitals, medical kits to be given to patients referred by private doctors, approval to procure medicines and other consumables required for the next 90 days at Rs 260 crore and floating of a global tender to procure 5 lakh Remdesivir injections and allocating Rs 75 crore for the purpose.

To treat patients suffering from black fungal infection, the State has decided to ask the Centre to provide 20,000 vials of the required drug.

A health worker administers vaccine to a senior citizen in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

BBMP to be relieved of health mgmt

The State Covid Task Force, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, on Saturday decided to review the health management system in Bengaluru, which is currently under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and decided to merge it with the Health and Family Welfare Department. The DyCM said a committee will be constituted to look into technical issues involved and the report will be discussed at the next task force meeting. He said that 100-bed secondary hospitals will be set up in each Assembly constituency in Bengaluru and one tertiary care hospital for every four constituencies.

No vax stock anywhere, say pvt hosps

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

PRIVATE hospitals will take some more time before resuming vaccination at their facilities as the government has told them to source vaccines on their own, but there is no stock available anywhere.

The Private Hospital and Nursing Association (PHANA) had written to Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar a week ago, asking the government to supply them vaccines. PHANA president Dr HM Prasanna said, "But we have not got any response. We have also approached Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute of India, but they have not replied either. We have also written to Reddy's Lab for Sputnik vaccine, but they too have kept mum. The government should have informed us at least two months ago that private hospitals should buy vaccines on their own, but they told us just five days before the fourth phase was to start. Now, we are left with no vaccines."

PHANA had appealed to the government to supply at least enough vaccines to complete the second dosage for those above 45 years old and above.

Only Manipal and Apollo Hospitals have the stocks, but they are already booked.

Dr R Ravindra, past president, PHANA, said, "The State Government has let us down. There is an acute shortage of vaccines. I had written to Serum Institute, but they said they cannot supply us till July. Bharat Biotech said they will provide 10,000 doses from next week, which will be sufficient for 10 days."

As bodies pile up, state struggles to reduce deaths in second wave

New virus variant, state's unpreparedness, lack of awareness among people blamed

These days, when one is informed of a death of someone known, the first question one asks is "Was it Covid?", as if there is consolation over a death where Covid is not the culprit.

That is because deaths due to Covid are linked to horrifying experiences and visuals — of stricken patients struggling to hold on to dear life, literally begging for help to breathe; of helplessly desperate families zipping from one hospital to another looking for beds to save their dear ones, and failing; of hospitals running out of life-saving oxygen, and patients dying in droves; of patients, even in home isolation, collapsing and becoming a mere number in the daily health bulletin's list of deaths; of guilt haunting the survivors and of sheer grief and depression among family members that loosen the grip on the will to live and carry on after a death in the family due to failure to save the one fallen to the dreaded SARS-CoV-2 virus.

It is to wish that a deceased person and his/her family members did not have to go through all that, that the question is asked ("Was it Covid?"), and some consolation obtained when the answer is in the negative. Karnataka has so far seen 21,434 deaths where such consolation has eluded.

Of this number, 12,000-odd have occurred in the first wave which raged for about a year from March second week in 2020 to February-end. But 9,000-odd have occurred in just two months from mid-March (when the second wave kicked in) until now. Since mid-March, the Covid toll shot up by 72.89 per cent from 12,397 on March 15 this year to 21,434 on May 15. However, the mortality rate came down from 1.28 per cent then to 0.98 per cent now — which is explained by the massive additions in fresh Covid cases day after day (50,112 on May 5), taking the tally to 21,71,931.

The manner in which deaths started spiraling is shocking. The highest single-day deaths witnessed during the first wave was 179 on September 18, 2020 (the peak of the first wave). But during the second wave, April 23 this year saw that record crossed with 190 cases, after which, apart from April 25 when 145 fatalities were reported, all subsequent days have reported deaths higher than the highest in the first wave. In fact, the highest single-day deaths during the second wave was 596 on May 10, followed by 592 on May 7, and 517 on May 12.

As many as 349 people died of Covid in the state on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

BIG PICTURE

Experts say the accelerated fatalities in the second wave are due to a much more virulent double mutant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus infecting the state's population; the state government being caught off guard amid the euphoria of having got the better of the first wave, including the lack of preparation with adequate oxygen supply; the government opening up everything to the public without paying heed to desperate alerts by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); and people's lack of Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Karnataka is still grappling with meeting the rising demand for medical oxygen from hospitals and homes across the state, which points to a certainty of deaths remaining high in the coming days — unless stringent steps are taken to break the trend.

WHY ARE DEATHS HIGH?

A combination of a new virus variant, state government's inadequate preparedness that has led to shortages in medical infrastructure as well as drugs and vaccines, and people's lack of awareness on what to do when symptoms surface is being blamed by experts for the high number of deaths.

Dr G B Sattur, diabetologist and cardiologist, and a member of the Covid Task Force, says the mutant coronavirus, called double mutant variant, is extremely virulent and that is why more people are getting infected and developing health issues.

Senior epidemiologist Dr Giridhara R Babu from the Indian Institute of Public Health and a member of TAC, says that since overall cases have increased, even if 1 per cent of the population is at high risk then mortality will be high.

Dr Lokesh, Chief Medical Officer, Madikeri Covid Hospital, says, "Delayed reporting of patients to hospitals is a reason. There have been instances where patients were brought dead after being infected by the virus for a prolonged period."

A change in emergency care strategies too has compounded the situation. People with comorbidities are found to be more severely affected in the second wave. "Earlier, those with comorbidities were referred from district hospital to hospitals in Mysuru for super specialist care. But not anymore. These patients require such care apart from Covid treatment and since they don't get it, deaths have increased," he says. He also points out that Covid cases in the second wave are unpredictable and many have turned fatal even after 14 to 15 litre of constant oxygen supply.

A senior doctor involved in Covid management, informs, "Increasing burden on ICU/oxygenated beds and ventilators is forcing many critically-ill patients to go without beds and they end up trying to get admitted to several hospitals and dying in transit, or just after getting admitted, when it's too late."

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Dr Giridhara Babu says, "The best way to reduce rising deaths is only through early triaging mechanisms and ensuring that needy get beds in time, even if the patient is in moderate distress. It has been seen that young people tend to neglect their health and when they get affected, it becomes really bad. People assume respiratory illness with mere weakness and neglect it."

He advises everyone to regularly check one's own oxygen levels and monitor their health. Home isolation kits should be strictly abided by and if the oxygen level drops below 94, they should have a back-up, he says.

Dr Ravindra Mehta, chief of pulmonology and critical care, Apollo Hospitals, says, "The best way to reduce mortality in the coming days is for the government to get sufficient supplies and undertake aggressive vaccination drives. The entry and exit at hospitals need to be streamlined. Once a patient's condition improves, he should be shifted from the ICU bed. Home isolation norms, too, should be strictly followed and even with a slight symptom, early testing and early medication should be done."

Dr Sattur says that to reduce deaths, Covid Care Centres should be set up rapidly and infected should be shifted. The service of Ayurvedic and homoeopathy doctors and staff can be utilised in the centres for primary level of treatment which will reduce severity among the patients and also the burden on ICUs and oxygen beds. Early detection and treatment will reduce the spread and also the number of severe patients, which will bring down deaths. The government could have planned oxygen production and other required facilities much earlier and it did not, which is unfortunate. But it is very difficult to handle things in a country with a 130 crore population."

Dr Ashok H, Dakshina Kannada district nodal officer for Covid, says his team carries out death audits to understand why a fatality has occurred, pinpoint the factors, and then ensure prevention. "Despite having symptoms or worsening circumstances, some refuse to get hospitalised which is one of the main reasons for the deaths."

Inputs from: Bosky Khanna; Karthik KK; Prajna GR; Arunkumar Huralimath; Ramkrishna Badseshi; Raghu Koppar

Deputy CM to be part of PM's meeting with DCs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SOURCES said since Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be directly interacting with the officers working in the Covid-19 hotspots, he is likely to get information about the situation on the ground, measures taken by them to contain the spread, containment zones and enforcement of the lockdown norms as well as vaccination drive.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman **Dr CN Ashwath Narayan**, Revenue Minister R Ashoka, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar too will be part of the Prime Minister's interaction with the Deputy Commissioners.

CM's video conference

A day before the Prime Minister's interaction with the 17 Deputy Commissioners, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa is holding a video conference on Monday with all the Deputy Commissioners and senior officers in the districts to review the situation.

Doc: State should have watched vax supplies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"EVERYTHING was going on smoothly till then. We should have first kept an eye on our vaccine supplies. I feel the State Government came under pressure and got bogged down, assuming that they could 'manage' it. But it has not worked," the doctor said, requesting not to be named. However, it is crucial to vaccinate this segment of the population as the second wave data indicates that Covid-19 no longer targets mostly the elderly.

Dr Srinivasa S, Chairman, National Indian Medical Association Standing Committee for Child Health, said, "The number of people infected and even the deaths in this age group is considerably higher during the second wave. If these people are not vaccinated before the third wave, youngsters and children are going to be the worst hit."

The State Government, according to sources, is assessing the district-wise requirements for vaccines and chalking out a detailed plan to allocate vaccines.

With 74.80 lakh people in the 18-44 age group, Bengaluru Urban has the largest population in this segment, and will be allocated 22.89 per cent of the available vaccine doses, according to the Health Department.

Other districts like Mysuru, Ballari, Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburgi will be allocated 4.88 per cent , 4.04 per cent , 3.34 per cent and 3.85 per cent of the quantum, respectively.

However, Dr Giridhara R Babu, senior epidemiologist and member of TAC, said micro planning on how to go about vaccinating this group is very important. He said the state can take the electoral data and ensure they reach out to this segment without waiting for people to come on their own to take vaccines.

"Sometimes, we may assume that given the impact of second wave, people will come voluntarily for vaccines. It doesn't work like that. We have to first do away with Co-WIN, have manual registrations, use ASHA workers and ensure this population is vaccinated, and then run a checklist on whether they have had both doses. This is extremely important," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman Dr C N Aswath Narayan said, "Vaccination for 18-44 will be opened at the earliest after putting in place a system for registration. Vaccine manufacturing in the country is being ramped up and the government is trying to procure more vaccines through global tenders to improve the situation."

SURVIVOR'S TALE

I came back alive from deathbed: Theatre personality

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Chitradurga

"I ALMOST died, but came back alive. No one should get infected with Covid and get admitted to hospital in a serious condition. The beep of the ventilator still haunts me at night," said Prakash Badardinni, a theatre personality, who recovered from Covid.

Prakash, son of theatre personality and comedian late Ashok Badardinni, was infected in the lung and had to stay in the ICU for 14 days at a hospital in Gangavathi. He told TNSE that for the first two days, he did not know what was happening. "The third day, I gained some consciousness, but I was very weak. I thank the nurses and doctors for giving me a fresh lease of life," he added. "I saw bodies lying in the same ward and realised how important it is to follow Covid-appropriate behavior," he said.

"A 32-year-old man was admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. I and others in the ward tried to boost his confidence. But he passed away on the third day.," he added. "The best psychologists at the ward were elderly patients, who boosted my confidence," he said.

"On September 15 last year, I had a light fever and went to a physician at Chitradurga. I got myself tested for Covid on the fourth day. The result got delayed and I was feeling breathless. On September 21, I moved to Koppal, where my sister stays. I had decided that if I cannot live, I should at least spend the last few days next to my sister. As hospitals were full at Koppal, I was moved to Gangavathi. When I was getting admitted, I got a message on my mobile that I had tested positive," he added.

K'taka active tally over 6L

ENS@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA on Saturday reported 41,664 fresh Covid-19 cases pushing the total tally to 21,71,931. The active cases too breached the 6-lakh mark and stood at 6,05,494.

According to an analysis by Jeevan Raksha, the total positive cases in Karnataka is expected to hit the 30 lakh-mark by June 10.

Meanwhile, 34,425 discharges took the total recovery to 15,44,982. The State's recovery rate has been improving over the last one week. On May 7 , the recovery rate was 69.84% , followed by 70.8% on May 10 and on May 15, it was 71.13%.

CCB sleuths on Saturday arrested a male nurse attached to Jayanagar General Hospital in Bengaluru on charges of selling Remdesivir in black and seized six vials from him. Police said the accused Maruthi was caught while trying to sell six vials for ₹24,000 each

Medical board to examine 'wounded' MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh High Court on Saturday constituted a three-member medical board-headed by superintendent of the Government General Hospital, Guntur, to examine wounds allegedly inflicted on YSRC rebel MP K Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju by police to check the veracity of the allegation. He was arrested for his alleged 'hate speeches against the government' and was remanded in judicial custody till May 28 by the VI Additional Munsiff Magistrate Court in Guntur on Friday evening.

Initially, the court rejected the remand report produced by the CID officials, but later accepted it when a letter informing the arrest of Raju to the Lok Sabha Speaker was furnished. The AP high court rejected the MP's bail petition and directed him to approach a lower court.

RAIN, HIGH TIDE WREAKS HAVOC IN T'PURAM

Damages houses, farmlands; Valiyathura sea bridge caves in following strong waves and wind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

TORRENTIAL rain accompanied by wind and high tide due to 'Cyclone Tauktae' caused considerable damage in coastal areas and agricultural farmlands in the capital district on Saturday. The 214 m-long Valiyathura sea bridge, one of the oldest sea piers in the state, caved in at the middle following strong waves and wind. The pillars of the bridge developed deep cracks. The gate has been closed by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with the help of police to prevent people from entering the bridge. Thiruvananthapuram sub-collector visited the spot and reviewed the situation.

Raging waves destroyed several houses in coastal areas from Pozhiyoor in the south to Anchuthengu. A total of 11 houses were destroyed fully and 228 houses were partially destroyed. At Pozhiyoor alone, 23 houses have been destroyed in the high tide and wind in the last two days. Several trees that were uprooted in the city.

Cyclonic effect to continue for two more days: IMD

CONTINUED FROM P1

ACCORDING to the IMD forecast, the cyclonic effect is expected to continue for two more days. Mangaluru MLA and former minister U T Khader visited many places in his constituency after people complained of damage to properties due to sea erosion and rains. He urged the district administration to call a meeting of public representatives and bureaucrats to help people in crisis.

According to the district administration, 11 houses have been partially damaged in Mangaluru taluk. The rains and gusty winds also brought down several trees and electric poles, snapping road connectivity between BC Road and Neerumarga among others. The Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, Revenue Department and others have stepped up vigil.

The road leading to Kannanthura beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, washed away due to torrential rain in the wake of Cyclone Tauktae | VINCENT PULICKAL

In Udupi, Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesh said those affected by Cyclone Tauktae will be rehabilitated. As the district is witnessing heavy rains, many areas are facing sea erosion. "All the tahsildars have been directed to be prepared and make arrangements to rehabilitate affected families. Rehabilitation centres will be opened and people can approach respective tahsildars," he added.

Heavy rains and strong waves damaged many houses and properties in Padukere, Malpe, Mattu, Maravanthe, Kaup and other areas. The district administration has opened a rehabilitation centre at Yellur Mogaveera Bhavan as over 60 fisher families are in danger. Due to high tide, eight fishing boats have been damaged at Malpe and many boats were shifted to safer places.

Uttara Kannada district too witnessed frequent rainfall. High-velocity winds and rough seas were reported from Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kumta, Ankola and Karwar, forcing fishermen to stay on shore. Sea erosion was reported in Bhatkal Port, Jalikod, Tenginagundi and Karikkal in Bhatkal taluk. In Honnavar, erosion was reported from Manki village, from Majali and Nacchinbagh near Karwar and Avarsa in Ankola taluk.

Several boats from neighbouring states and districts that came to Karwar have anchored here. Karwar is considered the safest place during natural calamities due to the islands around it.

PLEA TO CM

'Pay ₹30L to kin of advocates who died of Covid'

ENS @Bengaluru

PAINED by the death of 56 advocates, who are members of the Advocates' Association of Bengaluru (AAB), due to Covid, AAB president AP Ranganath addressed a letter to the Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa to treat advocates as frontline workers and grant Rs 30 lakh each as compensation to the families of advocates who died due to pandemic. "It pains me dearly to inform you that many young advocates with extremely bright prospects have lost their precious lives," he said.

Requesting to provide free treatment for the members of the Bar, Bench and the court staff, in all the hospitals, he urged the chief minister to release funds immediately to dispense for advocates who are in financial distress.

He stated that with Covid-19 cases continuously on the rise and most courts closed, many advocates have lost their only source of income. "It is a well-known truth that advocates and their family members, who have been infected, have not received quality and timely treatment. As you may be aware, many advocates are in dire financial crisis and are not able to afford basic living expenses, and unable to afford medical expenses," the president said in the letter. "In this pursuit of selfless sacrifice and public service many advocates not only contracted the virus but also tragically succumbed to it," he said.

'GETTING ADMITTED TO ICU COMES WITH ADDED RISKS'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to Dr Tinku Joseph, chief of interventional pulmonology at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, home isolation and care would suffice in case of Covid with mild fever. "What people do not realise is that going to ICU and ventilator comes with its own set of risks in the form of infections like ventilator-associated pneumonia, which can affect chances of survival after intubation," added Dr Prashanth, Asst Professor at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute. So, when actually should a Covid-19 patient seek hospitalisation and when one be provided with an oxygen or ICU bed?

"A patient should be hospitalised only if SpO2 is below 93% (88-92% in patients with chronic lung disease) and respiratory rate is more than 24 per minute. ICU admission would be needed if the respiratory rate is over 30 per minute and SpO2 is less than 90%. If the condition deteriorates, the patient can be put on a ventilator," said Dr Binod Kumar Patro, dean (research) at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

Oxygen saturation, known as the SpO2 level, refers to the level of oxygenated haemoglobin in the blood, which is transported from the lungs to various organs and helps sustain vital functioning. Dr Justin A Gopaldas, consultant, critical care medicine, Manipal Hospitals in Karnataka, said a patient who needs hospitalisation and is likely to need oxygen in the future, will be admitted to the general ward. "Their need for oxygen is determined by a number of factors. If they have cough, cold or fever, but have oxygen levels of 99% in the beginning, which later decreases to 94-96%, it indicates a downward trajectory," he explained.

According to Dr K P Aravindan, member, Kerala expert panel on Covid-19, ICU beds should be reserved for the neediest who require constant monitoring. "Most of the severe patients can be treated with the help of an oxygen bed. However, there is a rush to get admitted to an ICU bed. It is the doctors who should take the decision, based on the necessity of the patient and it should not be left to the discretion of patients," he said.

Hospitals typically decide on admission by giving preference to patients with co-morbid conditions and low oxygen saturation levels.

In Bhubaneswar, for example, the city's rapid response teams, led by doctors, first check the condition of patients and then allot beds as per need. "We decide on critical care if the condition of any patient deteriorates during treatment," said Dr Rajesh Lenka, nodal officer, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences at Tirupati has a triage centre for screening patients. "Based on their condition, patients are given non-oxygen beds or oxygen beds with ICU. Those whose condition is below the prescribed saturation levels will be allocated an Oxygen bed. Those with mild symptoms are sent for home isolation. If patients with mild symptoms are hospitalised, they are allocated normal beds," said Dr B Vengamma, director, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati.

The State COVID Hospital in Vijayawada, too, admits patients after their condition is examined at the triage centre. "Doctors collect blood samples and conduct various tests to check whether the patient has co-morbidities. If the patient is suffering from comorbidities and oxygen saturation levels are below 95%, he or she will be given an ICU bed with oxygen support. If the SPo2 levels are above 95%, they will be given bed in the ICU without oxygen support based on their condition. Those with mild symptoms are advised to stay under home isolation for 14 days with medication," said Dr N Gopichand, Nodal Officer, State COVID Hospital, Vijayawada.

A medical staffer carries an oxygen cylinder to a Covid ward in Tirupati on Saturday | MADHAV K

A doctor at the Government Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital in Tamil Nadu said if the saturation level of a patient on oxygen support stays above 92%, there is nothing to worry. However, concerned bystanders – misinformed by fake WhatsApp forwards and misleading news reports – increase the oxygen flow till the saturation reaches 98-99% because they think anything below that is unsafe.

"Doctors keep reducing the flow of the oxygen as the patient's saturation improves to bring the person out of oxygen support. However, the attendants may think we reduced the flow because there is a shortage of oxygen. Therefore, after we leave, they immediately adjust the knob and increase the flow," the doctor added.

However, if Covid patients with normal oxygen saturation have serious medical problems like acute coronary artery disease, stroke or kidney disease requiring dialysis, then they need to be admitted in designated Covid hospitals, noted Dr Anjan Trikha of AIIMS Delhi. Likewise, patients with safe oxygen saturation but having persistent cough and fever for more than five days may need close medical observation, said Dr Kiran Madhala, HOD, Critical Care, Nizamabad Medical College. "If cough persists beyond five days and does not resolve, it is recommended to get in touch with a doctor and under their guidance one can start on either tablet or inhalable steroids to reduce inflammation in lungs," he said. If the saturation goes below 85%, the patient will need ventilator support, he added.

However, most people don't understand the medical requirements of Covid patients for speedy recovery and try to push their own will on doctors and hospital staff. Some are obsessed with Remdesivir, say Dr P Vasanthamani, dean, Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital in Chennai. "If we don't give Remdesivir, the attendants insist it be given irrespective of the patient's condition. They also manipulate the oxygen flow without understanding the medical needs of the patient," she said, adding that such interferences could delay the patient's recovery.

(With inputs from Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, New Delhi and Vijayawada)

Stray dogs maul elderly woman to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a tragic incident, an elderly woman was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs at Dwaraka Nagar in RR Nagar on Friday night.

The dogs were apparently chasing another passerby for over half-a-km, before they across the woman and pounced on her instead, police said. The police have filed a case against BBMP for not taking adequate steps during the lockdown to keep the stray canine population in check. Meanwhile, the identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained. A police officer said the woman, aged about 70 years, was walking alone at around 11.30 pm, when she was attacked by the dogs. She was not carrying anything in her hands. Police also suspect that she had no one to look after her.

Police found CCTV footage showing the dogs chasing another person in the same locality around 10 pm, but residents managed to rescue him. The dogs, while running away, fell upon the elderly woman walking alone and mauled her to death. She was found with severe injuries and had died on the spot.

The residents initially suspected it as murder, and alerted police, who understood it be an attack by stray dogs.

Blast victim's body brought to Idukki

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kochi

THE mortal remains of Soumya Santhosh, the Malayali caretaker, who died in the Hamas mortar shell attack in Israeli city of Ashkelon on May 11, was brought to her Kanjiramthanam residence near Adimali in Idukki around 10pm on Saturday.

The body, brought on board a special flight to New Delhi airport earlier in the day, was received by Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan. Israel's ambassador to India, Ron Malka and deputy chief of mission, Rony Yedidia Clein paid respects to Soumya at the New Delhi airport. Her brother Sajesh and relatives received the body at the airport.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Dated: 14.05.2021

The Divisional Electrical Engineer (General Services), Palakkad Division, acting for and on behalf of The President of India, invites E-Tenders through official portal of Indian Railways **(www.ireps.gov.in)** from experienced contractors for the under mentioned works.

(Sl.No.1) Tender Notice No.: **J-E-1-2021-22-W; Name of work:** Electrical arrangements for Provision of IRS Type Shelters 30 Bays at Mangalore Jn., Kanhangad, Payyannur, Kannapuram, Nileswar, Kumbala and Chervathur Railway stations; Approximate cost: ₹ **31,06,080/-**; (Sl.No.2) Tender Notice No.: **J-E-2-2021-22-W; Name of work:** Design, Supply at site, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 4 Nos. Passenger Escalators as per RDSO specification No. RDSO/ PE/SPEC/TL/0095 (Rev '2') 2017 in Foot Over Bridge at GB Road Palakkad near Palakkad Town Railway Station for Palakkad Municipality.; Approximate cost: ₹ **2,07,01,432/-**; Date and time of Tender closing: **16.06.2021 at 11.00 Hrs.**

For complete details, please refer E-Tender → Works → Search Tender in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. Corrigendum if any; will be notified in website only and it will not be published in newspapers.

Divisional Electrical Engineer (General Services), Palakkad

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALGHAT DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/05/2021 Dated: 14.05.2021

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1	Assistant Divisional Engineer Mangalore sub division: I. Protective works on steep slope cutting area, bridge approach etc and II. Clearing of earth slips and restoration of track due to land slide, breaching rock falling (For anticipated slips etc in the year 2021-22); Approximate Cash value (in lakhs): ₹ **147.08**; Tender closing date **15.00 hrs** on: **07.06.2021**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
2	Mangalore Junction - Construction of OHE depot and tower wagon siding at Mangalore Junction; Approximate Cash value (in lakhs): ₹ **79.16**; Tender closing date **15.00 hrs** on: **07.06.2021**; Completion period in Months: **Eight**
3	Palakkad Division - Provision of Escalators (4 Nos) in FOB at GB road, Palakkad under AMRUT projects for Palakkad Municipality under Deposit work (Civil cost); Approximate Cash value (in lakhs): ₹ **133.50**; Tender closing date **15.00 hrs** on: **07.06.2021**; Completion period in Months: **Nine**
4	Palakkad Division - Proposed supply of welding portions with all accessories approved by RDSO for fusion welding including supervision of welding during execution; Approximate Cash value (in lakhs): ₹ **193.01**; Tender closing date **15.00 hrs** on: **07.06.2021**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
5	Palakkad Division - Providing sliding boom at 60 Level crossings:- 1) DEN/East/portion-13 Level Crossings; 2) Sr.DEN/West/Portion-47 LCs; Approximate Cash value (in lakhs): ₹ **12.35**; Tender closing date **15.00 hrs** on: **07.06.2021**; Completion period in Months: **Six**

Bid security declaration in lieu of Bid security / Earnest Money Deposit: As per Railway Board vide letter No.2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/ Policy dt. 30.12.2020, Bid security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security / Earnest Money Deposit is allowed against a tender, the bidder to mandatorily submit Bid declaration and to be uploaded IREPS during Tendering time. (This shall be valid for all tenders issued till 31.12.2021 (including 31.12.2021)

Item No. 1: **Any Civil Engineering works;** Item No. 2: **Any Civil Engineering works except Track Work / transportation;** Item No. 3: **Any Civil Engineering work involving fabrication and erection of steel structures;** Item No. 4: **Any work of supply of welding portions by RDSO approved agency.**

Note: 1. All the contracts on Works / goods / services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time. 2. Contractors / Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.07.2017 onwards. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Palakkad

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ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08392-273479 /278168
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08392-273477
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ :www.bellarycity.gov.in
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: bellarycommissioner@yahoo.co.in
ಗಡಿಗಿ ಚೆನ್ನಪ್ಪ ವೃತ್ತ (ರಾಯಲ್ ಸರ್ಕಲ್) ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ-583101

No: CCB/ENG/ELE/LED/196/2018-19(20-21) Date:13.05.2021

Corrigendum & Addendum To Tender Notification-LED CCMS Project Ballari (Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited by the Commissioner, Ballari City Corporation, Ballari Vide notification No: CCB/ENG/ELE/LED/196/2018-19(20-21) Dt.31.03.2021 through e-procurement, for Appointment of **CONCESSIONAIRE** for implementation LED CCMS Project through Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Ballari city corporation, Ballari

As per the request of Bidders, The Director, DMA vide letter: 457879 DMA/DEV/ELE(LED)/4/2021 Date: 04-05-2021 has issued an order by changing specific clauses of RFP Document and response to the queries raised by bidders Hence, bidders need to note above changes and upload the Documents accordingly in E-Procurement.

Due to COVID-19 State vide lockdown imposed by the Karnataka Government Order No: **RD 158 TNR 2020 Dt.07-05-2021** and as per the request of Bidders, The Commissioner, City Corporation, Ballari has extended the bid submission by 15 days. Accordingly, Tender has been extended as per the timeline mentioned below.

Sl No	Description	Original Dates	Revised Dates
1	Last date & time for bid submission	Date: 18-05-2021 @17.00 Hrs	Date: 02-06-2021 @17.00 Hrs
2	Technical Proposal will be opened on	Date: 21-05-2021 @11.00 Hrs	Date:04 -06-2021 @11.00 Hrs
3	Financial bid will be opened on	Date: 31-05-2021 @11.00 Hrs	Date: 14-06-2021 @11.00 Hrs

For further details contact this office Phone No.08392-273479, 273474 and e-mail ID: bellarycommissioner@yahoo.co.in.

Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Bellary

punjab national bank

Mid Corporate Centre – MCC, Bangalore, #221, India Mutual Building, NR Square, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560002. Contact : 080-22485500/22108399, Email: mcc6325@pnb.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

All of you the undermentioned borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in A/c of our **Richmond Road Branch** and that the notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act sent to you by **Speed Post / Registered A.D** has returned undelivered and the notice was also affixed on the premise at the given address. Hence all of you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned below against each borrower/ mortgagors with interest accruing therefrom within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub Sec. (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. Please take notice that in terms of section 13(13) of the said Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets above referred to, without prior written consent of the Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence. Your attention is hereby invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to you redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower, Guarantor, Mortgagors & Amount Outstanding

1) Borrower : M/s.Venkat Estates Private Limited
Flat No.254, 5th Floor, Rajnigandha Block, Garden Apartment, Vittal Mallya Road, Opp UB City Bangalore - 560001.
Guarantor : **1.Mr Venkat S Reddy, 2.Mrs D Praveena Devi, 3.Mr Vishnu S Reddy,**
All are at : C-1306, 13th Floor of C Block Corona, Brigade Gateway, Dr Rajkumar Road, Malleswaram West, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560055.

Amount Outstanding Due: As on **31.3.2021** is **Rs.10,56,61,289.32 (Rupees Ten Crore Fifty Six Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Nine and Thirty Two Paise Only)** with further interest.

Description of the Secured Assets

1. 55% of undivided rights, interest and title in project known as Venkat Windsor East, S.No.101, Kithanur Village, Bidara Hobli, Bangalore, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560049 consisting of Flat Nos G01 to G03, G5 to G8, G18, G22 to G25, G 29, G31,G32, G 34 to G 36,102,104 to108,118,122 to126,128,130,134 to 136, 201, 203, 204 to 206, 208, 218, 222 to 226, 230 to 232, 236, 301 to 303, 305, 306, 308, 318, 322 to 328, 330, 331, 403, 405, 418, 419, 422 to 426, 430 to 436.
2. Residential site no.51/2, Khatha No 205/86/51/2, residentially converted private layout known as Swiss Town in SY No 86, 86/P22 and 136 of Illathore village, Sadahalli, Devanhalli Tq.
3. No.195, PID No.67:7:195, New PID No147- W022-55, 2nd Cross, 7th Block, BBMP Ward No.147, Koramangala Ext., Bangalore.
4. Residential Apartment bearing No.C 1306, BBMP Khatha No 26/1- 128/76, PID No.9:1:26/1-128/76 in 13th floor, C wing, Corona in Brigade Gateway Apt., and UDS of land measuring 288sq ft. in Industrial Suburb, Subramanyanagar, Rajajinagar Extn., Malleswaram West, Bangalore -560055
5. No-254, K Municipal No.21, Garden Apartment, Old No.6, PID No 76-22-2, Khatha No.21, 104, 5th Floor, Vittal Mallya Road, Rajnigandha Block, Bangalore.
6. Flat No G-04, in building known as "Venkat Wings Royal" on property in SY 35/1B, BBMP Khata No.867/35/1B situated at Shivanahalli BBMP Ward No.1, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Date of Notice : 12.4.2021 Date of NPA : 31.3.2021 Nature of Facility : Term Loan

Place : Bangalore
Date : 15.5.2021.

Sd/-
Chief Manager / Authorised Officer

"Making music has gotten easier; selling it has gotten harder." Stewart Copeland

LONG SHADOW OF LONG COVID ON THE ECONOMY

ON the 72nd Republic Day, the International Monetary Fund forecast that the Indian economy would grow at 11.5 per cent — the only large economy to record double digit growth. In a hundred days since India has been witness to haemorrhaging of lives, livelihoods and confidence. The hopes of a V-shaped recovery are now stranded between a raging virus and a botched-up vaccination roll out.

The economy is under the long shadow of long Covid — as in the medical condition deleterious effects haunts the economy. In May, a parade of rating agencies as also economists have downgraded India's growth — the best-case scenario as of now is 9 plus per cent GDP growth and the worstcase scenario is 8.2 per cent. To appreciate the setback, one must look at the timeline of the slide in economic prospects — where the economy was, where it is and when it could get back to where it was.

Budget 2020 placed India's gross domestic product at around ₹203 lakh crore or $ 2.8 trillion. The economy was expected to grow by around 10 per cent nominally and touch roughly ₹220 lakh crore. Instead, it contracted 8 per cent post the pandemic pushing the economy down to ₹195 lakh crore or around $2.6 trillion, which is where it was approximately in 2018. This year the economy, as per the budget, is expected to touch ₹222 lakh crore or $ 3 trillion. Where it will end the year is yet a question — it may just make it to the pre-pandemic level of end-2019 by early 2022 but what is clear is that the economy has lost almost two years.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

Budget 2021, this column had commented, rested on critical pillars. The rollout of vaccination, the capacity of states to implement the multi-year, multi-trillion, infrastructure plans, privatisation of public sector assets to fund expenditure and the clean-up of the financial sector. The hypothesis being these moves would trigger the virtuous cycle of demand, income, consumption, investment, jobs and growth.

Consider the state of vaccination. India's current population is estimated at 140 crore or 1.4 billion. The government had targeted to immunise 300 million of the 60-plus (and frontline workers) by the end of July. Since then, it expanded the ambit to include those above 45 years of age. As of now, just over 180 million doses have been delivered – and the current rate yo-yos between 1 and 3 million shots a day.

On the privatisation front while there is much motion, there is little movement. Privatisation is critical for funding growth, to retire debt and ensure a sustainable borrowing programme – the government will this year borrow ₹137 crore every hour every day. A persistent argument within government is that this may not be the right time to disinvest/privatise, to wait for the right valuation. For sure the pandemic makes it hard but the focus must be to get it done. What matters is the opportunity cost of maintaining the PSUs and the net present value of what is realised.

It is also important to review history. Ideally Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited should have followed the privatisation of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. Air India should have been privatised in 2001 – there were five serious takers then. In 2021, there are hardly any takers for MTNL or Air India. And while the Babudom hem and haw about Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a point to note is that the rise of the theology of ESG (Environment Social Governance) norms will affect interest and valuation.

The infrastructure for growth strategy requires implementation of funds and plans by state governments. This is haunted by the surge of the virus across geographies. Economic engagement depends on engagement – social and commercial. As of now, over 90 per cent of the population is under some shade of lockdown or the other. Yes, the curve will flatten at some point ahead but the 'unlock' will perforce be gradual given the magnitude of distress witnessed.

It is useful to remember that India's economy suffered from comorbidities — it migrated from slowdown to lockdown to contraction. There is the supply shock and then there is the spectre of demand shock. Consumption could be affected as all around distress has severely impacted consumer confidence – the competing pressures on income now include contingency plans for exorbitant ambulance charges, the elusive Remdesivir, hospitalisation costs et al. In 2020, rural India was largely unaffected and propped up the economy. In 2021, rural India is ravaged by the virus.

The bard, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote "There is no grief like the grief that does not speak." A large part of the economy is informal and is severely affected. The face-to-face segment is yet to open up. Small and medium enterprises depending on their sectoral location are hit once again – depending on sectoral location, some are on large corp hospitalisation, some are under oxygen and many are on ventilator. The economy cannot yet express its grief for it is enveloped by uncertainty.

India's economy needs a Plan B — this must start with a review of Budget 2021 and include an aggressive investment plan for healthcare, which could be unveiled as it emerges out of the current wave for the optimum multiplier effect.

DRAVIDIAN STOCK. SURYA VS ANNADURAI

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

TEJASVI Surya is one of the brightest men in public life today. He is young, educated and intelligent. He is a good speaker and can carry an audience with ease. He is a lawyer by profession and a trained Carnatic musician. When such a man goes communally partisan, it can only be described as a tragedy. Tejasvi's latest adventure into communal politics gives a Hindutva viewpoint even to corona and oxygen.

Hospital beds being allocated to Muslims is the newest problem worrying him. The Bangalore corporation has what is called a war room that handles the distribution of its health facilities. Surya says that there is "a nexus of certain BBMP officers and certain frontline hospitals and certain agents who have organised a bribes-for-bed scam". He must be right on that point, considering the way corruption has overtaken every activity in our lives. But he goes off tangent when he says that there is a Muslim conspiracy behind the scam. On the basis of his convenient data, there are 17 officials in the Corporation who are responsible for the scam and all of them are Muslims. Why were so many from the same community appointed in the war room, he asked. The war room has a total staff of 212. He just picked 17 of them.

The Alternate Law Forum stepped in to provide a sense of perspective. We are all together in this, said its spokesman. "Some politicians are trying to sow the seeds of hatred. We don't need hatred. We need oxygen." A citizen named Aparna shamed hate-mongers with her common sense. She said: "Just because there are 173 Hindus, the war room will not become a mutt. The 17 Muslims won't make it a madrasa either."

That is what most citizens think. Which shows that the efforts of men like Surya to communalise the general population have not succeeded. Nor will they succeed ever. Surya, a good South Indian, must ask himself why his political ideology has not found in South India the fertile ground it found in the North.

The North-South divide is more than the political confrontation it appears to be. It has deep ethnic roots the significance of which is not yet fully understood. New Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's ascent provided the occasion to see this in a new light. In his Twitter profile, Stalin noted that he belonged to "the Dravidian stock". C N Annadurai, who worked out the DMK's original philosophy, was a thinker of the classical kind. He rose to power as the Delhi Government's "Hindi imposition" policy led to the disappearance of the Congress (the party of power in those days) from Tamil Nadu.

Annadurai presented his thesis in a style that conveyed the historical importance of the occasion. It was his maiden speech in Parliament (1962) and he said: "I claim Sir to come from a country, a part of India now, but which

What a pity that the young people of Tamil Nadu have not understood what's good for them. May be bhakts should get together and revive the old gramophone label HMV — His Master's Voice. Remember Surya is a Carnatic maestro

I think is of a different stock, not necessarily antagonistic. I belong to the Dravidian stock. I am proud to call myself a Dravidian. That does not mean I am against a Bengali or a Maharashtrian or a Gujarati. As Robert Burns said, 'A man is a man for all that.' I say I belong to the Dravidian stock only because I consider that Dravidians have got something concrete, something distinct, something different to offer to the nation. Therefore, it is that we want self-determination." A chief minister may be called Stalin. He may have a Nehru and a Gandhi in his cabinet. They are all of proud Dravidian stock.

Tejasvi Surya is intelligent enough to understand the logic of the Dravidian stock demanding its place in the sun. But ideological blindness makes him say something as idiotic as: "If Tamil has to survive, Hindutva has to win." Tamil has survived millennia to become the world's oldest living language. And Hindutva, because of its North Indianness, has gained little political mileage in Tamil country.

Ideological myopia makes intelligent people say unintelligent things. Thus, Surya says: "DMK is anti-Tamil because it represents a bad anti-Hindu ideology." What an upside-down view. It takes guts of a perverse kind to say that DMK is anti-Tamil, whatever the logic.

But Surya gave the game away when he expanded further. He said, with the confidence of a devotee: "Only a government under Modi leadership can work for young people's benefit in Tamil Nadu." What a pity that the young people of Tamil Nadu have not understood what's good for them. May be bhakts should get together and revive the old gramophone label HMV — His Master's Voice. Remember Surya is a Carnatic maestro.

ACT LIKE A LEADER, AXE SYCOPHANTS & SABOTEURS

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

DEAR Prime Minister,

As the pyres blaze day and night like the hopes of India burning and the people die gasping for breath in hospital corridors and parking lots, the time has come for us to recall Napoleon Bonaparte's words, "A leader is a dealer in hope". When India chose you twice, over 1.30 billion of countrymen were convinced that you, the first genuine non-Congress politician, are their best hope for a New India. Two thirds of the states also voted BJP after you became the PM, as voters placed their faith in your promises and performance. You had vowed to open up the economy, scrap obsolete laws, eliminate corruption, tame the bureaucracy, minimise minority appeasement and ensure a uniform tax regime. Your motto was 'let work speak, not the leader'.

Seven year later, Brand Modi is in on oxygen. Your admirers and well-wishers are crestfallen by your silence to questions about your government's ability to tackle the pandemic. You have weathered many personal and natural storms. A couple of months after taking over as Gujarat's chief minister, your innovative and hands-on approach quickly brought the state back on track after a devastating earthquake.

During Covid-19's first wave, you were hailed for containing the virus faster than other countries. You were applauded for encouraging indigenous manufacturers to invent and produce the vaccine within a minimum timeframe. Then you had said recently, "A terrible pandemic that has come after 100 years is testing the world at every step. There is an invisible enemy in front of us. We have lost many of those who were close to us. The suffering the people of this country have endured in the recent past, the pain that many people have gone through, I am also experiencing the same."

Why didn't these agonising sentiments strike your team earlier? The agony of India has washed away your vocabulary of commiseration as the sights of unclaimed bodies floating in river, Indians dying outside hospitals, toddlers losing their parents, patients begging for oxygen and shortage of life-saving drugs and hospital beds numbed the collective soul. They have always trusted the slogan '*Modi hai to Mumkin hai*'. As the healthcare system collapses, the slogan coined by your enemies '*Jab tak Modi hai, to Mushkil hai*' is, unfortunately, gaining traction. Tragically, the sound of negativity now sounds soothing and happily welcomed than the sponsored cacophony of positivity made by the patronised and hired sycophants.

Those who have faith in you and your leadership feel that the government has lost the battle of perception due to betrayal by your trusted lieutenants. The success of a leader depends on the success of team members. The public believes that sycophancy is the sole mission of your entire team, including party office bearers, ministers, chief ministers, civil servants and self-proclaimed social influencers.

It is natural to counter fake narratives against an elected Prime Minister with a credible counter narrative. But those who claim to be your supporters only indulge in acerbic, confrontationist and abusive tirades against government attackers. They manufacture childish, obscure websites and SM handles to promote and defend your performance and you, who has been called India's real guardian. At this time, we need your performance and your lost mojo and not publicity. The second Covid wave has set many dismal global records in terms of number of cases and fatalities. The system has failed to anticipate the catastrophe on our doorstep.

If India can be the world's pharmacy, why was the Centre not India's physician who provided sufficient vaccines for its people instead of embarking on an ill-conceived Vaccine Maitri? Why didn't your soft-soaping advisors place enough orders? It was left to a usually passive judiciary to excessively intervene and restore some sanity in health administration. When questioned about the government's failure, their retort was cynical --- India is the first country to administer over 170 million doses in the shortest possible time. Is that a legitimate answer? The government ordered only 110 million doses initially. In contrast, the US sought 1.2 billion, the EU 1.3 billion, the UK around 500 million and Brazil over 230 million.

We are not even clear about the timeframe and frequency of jabs even after the second wave claimed over 2.50 lakh lives. What traumatises most Indians is dependence on others to save us. You made us proud by declaring that India would become a five trillion dollar economy soon. You asked us to work for Atmanirbhar Bharat. Look at the chaos on the ground. Our pride has bitten the dust by seeking foreign aid and accepting medical assistance in small amounts. Our government agencies and middle-level leaders resort to claim that "a flight from Kazakhstan arrives at Delhi with 5500000 Surgical mask and 150000 N95 mask" and "DEMA 129 arrives at Delhi airport from Qatar with 200 oxygen concentrators, 8 ventilators, Remdesivir injections". Their total value may not exceed a couple of thousand dollars.

Your heart has always been in the right place. But it seems toadies, fair-weather civil servants, ladder climbers, opportunists and semi-educated scientists have infiltrated in the system. They are saboteurs from within

Indians now feel diminished when they see news reports about Pakistan offering help. India is the world's fifth largest economy. We are self-sufficient in food grain, technology, pharmaceuticals and many other segments. While figures are fudged and desperate people seeking oxygen for their relatives are intimidated by the police, ministries and official departments have unleashed excessive publicity campaigns on the Oxygen Express, PSUs setting up plants and hospitals and placing orders for imports. If they could react after the damage has been done, why not earlier? Because they were busy competing in bootlicking and flummery. Your Gujarat model of development and governance was a huge success in a culturally cohesive tiny state. But pandemic needs a paradigm shift in administration. You may tweak the architecture of governance which can heal the nation though a genuine cooperative federalism.

Soon after your arrival on the national scene, Indians got a place of pride everywhere. They were most sought after because they belonged to a nation which was ruled by a popular and powerful leader with a mission and vision. But tragedy is like strong acid — it dissolves everything. The pandemic has eroded the nation's credibility. Indians, who were till recently adored, are now abhorred or pitied. It is during these times that the mettle of the leadership is tested. India needs a concern and conciliation, not confrontation. Keep the brownie points for later.

A leader must take the responsibility for failures if he is to be considered a statesman. Your heart has always been in the right place. But it seems toadies, fair-weather civil servants, ladder climbers, opportunists and semi-educated scientists have infiltrated in the system. They are saboteurs from within. Their target is to destroy Brand Modi. They hide their incompetence by making noises on social media and TV debates, while genuine professionals are debarred from reaching you and telling you the truth.

No doubt, a formidable cabal is working against you, but those who still see a ray of hope in you expect genuine introspection. Jack Welch told his audience once: "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." You gave chances to those who failed you. Now is the time to purge them from the system. Indian voters are brutal. They didn't spare a saintly leader like Vajpayee who tolerated the arrogant members of his political ecosystem. Their hubris brought agony to both the party and him. Ailing India is still looking to Modi for hope, not hopelessness. Silence of sadness is no longer golden. It may erupt like a volcano.

QUOTE CORNER

Despite the commitments made by the parties, air cargo activities reportedly continued with flights to various air bases in Libya's western and eastern regions. Reports indicated that there was no reduction of foreign fighters or of their activities

António Guterres, UN secretary-general

Ukraine is slowly but surely turning into some kind of polar opposite of Russia, some kind of anti-Russia, and into a platform from whose territory it seems we will constantly receive news requiring our special attention from a security point

Vladimir Putin, Russian president

The fake news law needs a lot of research, especially (on) how overseas governments are tackling this increasingly worrying trend of spreading inaccurate information, misinformation, hatred and lies on the social media

Carrie Lam, Hong Kong Chief Executive

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Go for online swearing-in

I fully concur with the views expressed in your editorial (Why not a virtual Kerala swearing in, May 15). I had raised objection to the government's plans to accommodate 750 participants for the function. If the government violates restrictions, what moral authority will it have to impose the same on the public. Why should the government make a great pomp about a simple ceremony at the cost of the exchequer, especially in this hour of crisis? I hope better sense will prevail on the Chief Minister and the Governor.

B C Unnikrishnan Nair, Kuthiathode

India can meet vax demand

Sir, the edit 'Despite vaccine assurance, Centre has huge task ahead' (May 15) shows your scepticism about Centre's capability to manufacture 200 crore vaccine doses in five months. The basis for doubt is experts' opinion. The same experts had doubted efficacy of domestically manufactured vaccine when it was released. Ramping up of production to attain capacity of 200 crore is well within govt's ability. It is quite reasonable to expect India to vaccinate the entire population and export surplus by the year end without need for imports.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangalore

Pitfalls of centralisation

By stopping ambulances at Telangana borders disregarding HC orders, KCR has exhibited a behaviour that is unbecoming of a person of his stature. Instead of allowing patients enter Telangana, authorities behaved in a manner that caused untold hardship to them. This is the result of concentrating all developmental activities at one place. Had the successive governments envisioned decentralisation, this situation could have been avoided.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

Absurd politics of quota

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis' demand to file a review petition for enhancing the 50% ceiling on quota is controversial. In a secular democracy, religion/caste linked quota for jobs and admission, solely considering the caste of the aspirants is antiquated. A policy of vital burden to pay income tax by all, if a specific number of a particular community are with huge earnings, is utterly unscientific. Similarly, the strategy of declaring a community as troubled if a certain percentage live in utter poverty or uneducated is also irrational.

Thomas K M, Kumbalamchuvattil

Don't let the guard down

This refers to the report, 'Maharashtra again registers over 50,000 recoveries; 695 deaths.' The number of positive cases is on decline in a few states. But new variants are a worry. Even though the recoveries are encouraging, there is a high probability of catching a secondary infection. As a matter of fact, things are going from bad to worse. The government at best can ensure availability of beds, medicines, oxygen and clamp down on black marketing and profiteering which is rampant.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

Audit of vax production must

From being projected as the largest producer of vaccines, we find ourselves in the midst of a shortage of Covid vaccine. We are facing a second wave which is much more massive. We need to find out the facts of what has been the production of vaccines from January2021 by the two major manufacturers and the total number of people vaccinated month-wise. Surely, the manufacturers were in receipt of purchase orders? The public needs to know the facts.

Prakash Magal, Bengaluru

Prepare for monsoon woes

The monsoon is just round the bend, and the viral pandemic has still not yet been vanquished. The Covid taskforce must be prepared to meet challenges which is likely to pose many a challenge unique to infection control. Crowding of relief seekers is one issue. Taking this into consideration, authorities have to earmark well-spaced out structures, now sparsely used due to restrictions.

George Jacob, Kochi

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
GOI's disastrous vaccine strategy will ensure a devastating third wave. It can't be repeated. enough- India needs a proper vaccine strategy!

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
There in no greater priority for a nation than to protect its citizens health! We must begin a national vaccination drive now. It must be robust

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri
Actions speak louder than agitations! Record breaking wheat procurement in Punjab. 132.02 MT procurement exceeds Govt target of 130 MT

Longer vax gap based on evidence: Centre

Niti Aayog member says UK example shows 12 weeks between jabs cut risk by 60-85% & chance of transmission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday insisted the decision to increase the gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks was purely based on scientific data and also reiterated that Covaxin production will be raised to 10 crore doses per month soon.

V K Paul, member (health) Niti Aayog and the head of national Covid-19 task force, said in a briefing that the narrative that the gap between two doses of Covishield has been raised owing to the scarcity of vaccines is "saddening".

"I am pleading to all of you with folded hands to put these controversies to rest," he said.

"National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation is a standing committee that guided the country in the past. Scientists of this panel deliberate and then come to a consensus," he said.

Paul added that India earlier did not go for the gap of 12 weeks, despite a decision by the UK to do so, as there was no evidence on its effectiveness back.

"Just a single dose and delayed second dose could make the chance of infection higher. When clinical trials were conducted, the standard protocol was to administer the two doses in a gap of four to six weeks. Somewhere there was a breach in this protocol and there was a delay in administering the second dose," said Paul.

"This breach should not have happened, but it happened. After analysis, it was found that delaying the second dose did not make any difference. But that was not considered robust evidence to extend the gap between the doses."

Health workers carry syringes to a vaccination centre in Jammu on Saturday | PTI

Explaining the rationale behind the change of stance now, Paul said that there is "real-life evidence" from lakhs of people in the UK, showing that a gap of 12 weeks reduces the risk of infection by 60-85 per cent and also reduces the risk of transmission.

> National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation is a standing committee that guided the country in the past. Panel members deliberate & come to a consensus
>
> V K Paul, member (health) Niti Aayog

"So now we got the confidence to implement the gap," he further said.

It was also reiterated in the briefing that while 1.5 crore doses of Covaxin is being manufactured in India as of now, this number will go up to 10 crore per month very soon.

Bengal announces 15-day lockdown to curb viral surge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

WITH Covid-19 cases showing no signs of abatement, the West Bengal government on Saturday announced a stringent lockdown for 15 days starting from Sunday. All private and government offices, intra-state public transport and educational institutions will remain shut and no political and religious congregations will be allowed during this period. The order also imposed night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am.

The government, however, has allowed retail shops and supplies, vegetable vendors, meat shops and fruit stalls to operate from 7 am to 10 am. Sweet shops will be open from 10 am to 5 pm while jewellery and clothes outlets may open from 12 noon to 3 pm.

Marriage ceremonies will be permitted with a maximum number of 50 invitees.

"To ensure public health and control of the Covid-19 situation, the state government is forced to impose this restriction. Bengal is going through unprecedented situation where oxygen and medicines required to treat Covid patients is becoming scarce. To control this situation, we are imposing strict conditions," said chief secretary Alapan Banerjee.

The government order banned all intra-state movement of trucks and goods carriers except relating to medical supplies, oxygen, essential food commodities, petrol/diesel and LPG. All industries and manufacturing units shall remain closed except those relating to medical supplies.

Operations of jute mills shall be allowed with 30 per cent of total strength of each shift.

Class X and XII board exams, scheduled to be held in June, have been suspended.

The coming months are known for marriages for which clothes and jewellery are essential items. So we allowed these two sections to operate for a limited period, an official said.

> During last year's lockdown, traders had no option but pour milk into drains and sell cattle to slaughter houses. To prevent this, milk trade has been allowed
>
> A West Bengal govt official

Mamata's brother succumbs to Covid

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's younger brother Ashim Banerjee died of Covid-19 on Saturday morning. He had been admitted to a private healthcare facility for the last one month. He was 60. The body will be cremated at Nimtala crematorium in north Kolkata following Covid protocols. Banerjee used to reside in the same house at Kalighat in south Kolkata with Mamata. He tested positive for Covid-19 last month and admitted to the Medica Superspecialty Hospital.

Role of cabinet comes under scanner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"EVERY minister is allocated a portfolio and he or she is responsible for the assigned task. If the PM thinks that other ministers need to be involved in certain matters then a Cabinet meeting can be called," said Yogendra Narain, a retired IAS officer and a former secretary general of the Rajya Sabha.

Narain said it was up to the Prime Minister, who if he feels, may ask a minister to help the health minister in dealing with a specific task such as transport of oxygen.

A former top ranking bureaucrat said the Cabinet Secretary should have taken the Prime Minister into confidence and alerted or warned of an impending second wave, which could have been on the basis of warnings by international agencies or on the ground assessment in the states.

> It's to be seen whether the Cabinet Secretary alerted the PM with a request to call the meeting of the Union Cabinet. If he didn't, then he failed in his duty
>
> A former top ranking bureaucrat

"It's to be seen whether the Cabinet Secretary alerted the PM on time of an impending challenge with a request to call the meeting of the Union Cabinet to apprise the ministers with the full facts available with the secretariat. If he didn't, then he failed in his duty," said the retired bureaucrat.

Rashid Alvi, a former member of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, lamented that "the government in the current dispensation means only the Prime Minister." "The Cabinet meeting can be called only if the PM wishes so, but the reasons behind the second wave is surely the Assembly elections in states and gram panchayat polls in UP, besides the Kumbh Mela in Hardwar. The MHA could have advised against holding of polls on the basis of the available inputs to the Election Commission," added Alvi.

RSS chief calls for united fight, no time for pessimism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) supremo Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said that the blame game on lapses during the second wave of the Covid-19 can wait and the nation as a team should respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Exuding confidence that India would come out victorious against the pandemic, Bhagwat said that there's no reason for pessimism as courage to continue is only what matters.

Addressing the "positivity series" organised by the RSS affiliate Vishwa Samwad Kendra, Bhagwat rued that all sections had become negligent after the first wave of the pandemic.

Stressing on the collective efforts, the RSS chief called upon the people to learn from the experiences to respond to the current and future challenges posed by the pandemic. "The blame game can wait. We have to work as a team to speed up the responses against the pandemic as had been stressed by Azim Premji (the chairman of Wipro) in his lecture. We also need to be scientific in our approach and adopt what stands the best scientific practices," added the RSS supremo.

> During last year's lockdown, traders had no option but pour milk into drains and sell cattle to slaughter houses. To prevent this, milk trade has been allowed
>
> A West Bengal govt official

May turns deadly for 9 hill districts of U'khand as virus goes on rampage

VINEET UPADHYAYV @ Dehradun

NINE hill districts in Uttarakhand have registered more Covid-19 deaths in May this year alone compared to the whole period from March 15, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

Since the first case surfaced in Uttarakhand on March 15, 2020 till April 30, 2021 a total of 312 Covid-related deaths were recorded in the nine hill districts of the state. However, between May 1 and 14this year the total toll has been 331.

Anoop Nautiyal from Social Development for Communities Foundation, which has been collating Covid data since the first case surfaced, said, "The health infrastructure is already overburdened. More than 90 per cent cases are mild if given proper medical attention on time. The government should ensure help through whatever means possible including telemedicine consultation and home delivery of Covid kits in remote and rural areas."

The spread of viral infection in remote and rural areas of the state has already stretched the health infrastructure. As many as 51 out of 141 residents in Kurkhyal village in Pauri district have tested positive, showing how the virus has reached even remote corners of this mountain state.

Mohan Negi, pradhan of Erani village of Chamoli district said, "Over 80 per cent people in my village have fever but no tests or medicines are available. Officials have promised to send help. A team had arrived last week to lift samples from some people and provided some medicines." Commenting on the issue, Subodh Uniyal, spokesperson for the state government said, "Every effort to break the chain and help people is on. Oxygen, medicines and beds are upgraded on war footing."

Kids silenced into gloom as Covid strikes home

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE tragedy of losing young parents to Covid-19 is so enormous that it has silenced their kids into unexpressed grief. And for the grandparents for whom the small world they owned meant everything, it is simply cruel.

Urvi and Krati (names changed) are 12 and 5 years old; their ailing parents had to lock them in a room so that they stayed away from infection. When it didn't help things, Kavita called her in-laws from Bhopal to Kota on May 7, saying Umesh, her husband, was in a very bad condition and that for the sake of kids they must reach Bhopal where the couple lived.

"His CT score was 12 and he was on glucose. Kavita herself was in a bad condition and she told us that their illness had forced her to confine their daughters to home," says a sobbing R P Sharma (67).

These children are now under the care of their grandparents | EXPRESS

Bringing his son's family to Kota was a major issue as Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh both were under lockdown. Luckily, Sharma's second daughter-in-law Himani Bhatia had a friend who worked in the Chief Minister's office.

Through her help, an ambulance with oxygen support brought Umesh, Kavita and their daughters to Kota on May 7 night.

In Kota, the Sharmas struggled to get hospital beds for his son and daughter-in-law. By 3 am, they found beds for Umesh and Kavita at Radha Krishan Hospital. Sharma says they did everything possible.

COVID'S ORPHANS PART-7

"If they asked us to get some injections or medicines, we got them no matter how much they cost. If there was an oxygen shortage, we organised that," says Sharma.

Umesh passed away on May 13 followed by Kavita the next day. Urvi is in seventh standard and is Covid-positive, the younger one Krati at 5 is does not really understand where her parents have gone.

"I don't know how we will take care of these girls," says Sharma. "How long will I and my wife live to take care of our granddaughters?"

His second daughter-in-law Himani Bhatia has promised to look after the two sisters.

"We did whatever was possible to save their parents. I have three children of my own. But with Urvi and Krati, I now feel I have five children. We will do our best to take care of them," says Himani.

Concluded

VILLAGERS REFUSE TO TAKE JABS

Ranchi: Flat refusal by villagers of the tribal-dominated districts of Jharkhand such as Gumla and its adjoining areas to get vaccinated for Covid has presented a new problem for the administration. According to officials, most residents are reluctant to get the vaccine dose fearing death and fever. Even those who have taken the first dose are also not turning up for the second shot after they got fever after the first jab.

TRACK WATER QUALITY: GOVT

New Delhi: The Centre has directed states to undertake water quality monitoring & surveillance activities to ensure to ensure potable drinking water to every rural home and public institution in villages. The advisory by National Jal Jeevan Mission urged that water quality monitoring and surveillance will not only save people from falling sick but also be helpful in saving precious lives.

ZEOLITE FROM ROME ARRIVES

New Delhi: National carrier Air India airlifted 35 tons of zeolite minerals used in oxygen production plants on two flights from Rome to Bengaluru on Saturday. The national carrier will also airlift zeolite minerals for the DRDO from multiple locations across the world in the coming weeks. "Seven charter flights are scheduled between May 15 and 18 from Rome to Bengaluru," Air India said.

PATH TO SAFETY

A Covid patient being shifted to hospital in Prayagraj on Saturday | PTI

INDIA'S COVID TRACKER

36,73,802 ACTIVE CASES

2,04,32,898 TOTAL RECOVERIES

31,30,17,193 Total samples tested

6,93,093 Samples tested on Friday

15.07 per cent of total cases are active

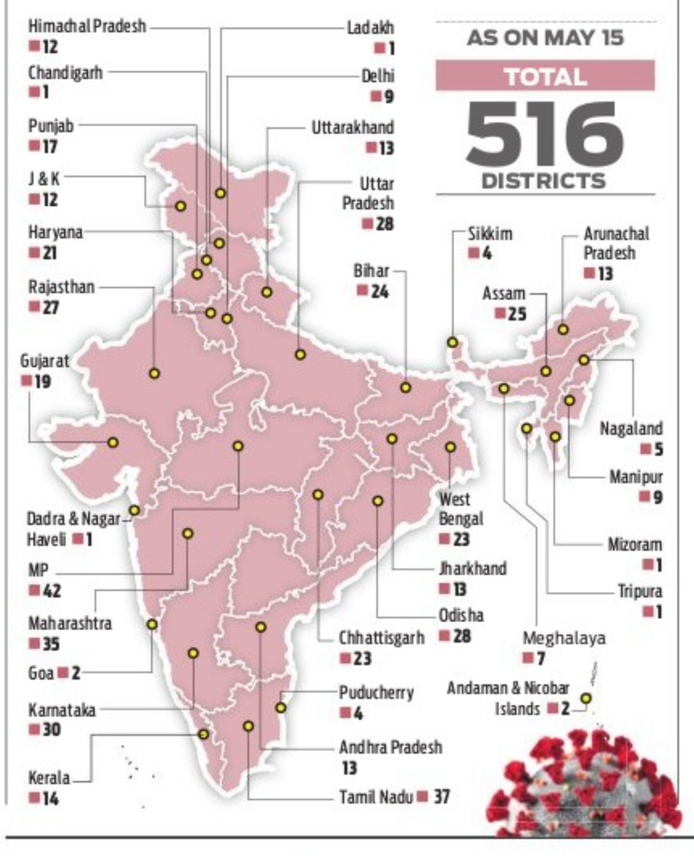
83.83 per cent national recovery rate

1.09 per cent case fatality rate

Source: Health Ministry

EXPRESS MAPS

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF DISTS WITH > 10% POSITIVITY



STRATEGY

Master plan helps UP ramp up oxygen supply in 10 days: Govt

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh quickly put in place a strategy to optimise the medical oxygen supply, enabling it to ramp it up four times — from 250 metric tons to 1,000 metric tons — in only 10 days.

"The task at hand was arduous, but it had to be accomplished. We came to know that the oxygen demand of about 250 MT on normal days had quadrupled. The demand was met with some meticulous planning and scientific approach," said an official statement from the state government. The state government focused on the most important issue – location of assets and managing the movement of assets to carry as much oxygen as possible with an underlying focus on optimisation.

Within 24 hours of taking the call on the oxygen supply, the government activated its teams across the state and other sourcing states such as Jharkhand, Bengal and Odisha to intercept the trucks carrying oxygen cylinders, deployed an application that was downloaded on smart phones which were then placed in each of the trucks plying, without disturbing their route. The SOP was to keep the phone switched on and not touch it, because it was used to track the live location.

Key macro decisions were taken to deploy the rail network to bring oxygen supplies from the eastern states and airlift the empty cylinders with the help of the Air Force using stations in Agra, Hindon and Lucknow back for re-fills. This information was fed into a live dashboard, which displayed all the trucks carrying oxygen, helping the decision-makers to address the allocation gap smartly and swiftly to stabilise the fire-fight for the oxygen supply. Real-time information on tankers and their movement, being the most critical element of the O_2 supply chain, was displayed using the dashboard to decision-makers. The dashboard called 'OxyTracker' was used to visually flag the efficiency of the entire fleet.

State's additional chief secretary (home) Awanish Awasthi said the focus was on a comprehensive approach — capacity building, which created five major hubs, Modinagar, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi, and then Bareilly and Gorakhpur as secondary hubs for optimising the entire oxygen supply chain. *ENS*

MAN KILLED IN JUMBO ATTACK

A man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district, a forest official said. He was attacked by the jumbo on Friday night when he was spraying pesticides in his paddy field

5 MEMBERS OF A FAMILY KILLED IN FIRE IN WEST BENGAL

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	31	Mumbai	36	29
Bhopal	39	26	Panaji	34	25
Jaipur	39	30	Patna	32	23
Amritsar	37	20	Lucknow	40	24
Chennai	33	28	Port Blair	33	27
Kolkata	37	28	Imphal	28	18
Srinagar	25	11	Chandigarh	37	22

Konkan region on high alert over Cyclone Tauktae

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

THE Indian Meteorological Department on Saturday said Cyclone Tauktae will pass through the coastal Goa and the Konkan region of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

By Saturday evening, the cyclonic storm had reached Ratnagiri of the Konkan area on, accompanied by heavy rain. It will not hit Mumbai, but the metropolis will see heavy rainfall.

"There is no danger of Tauktae to Maharashtra. The cyclone is 350 Kilometer away from the Goa coast. There will be a direct impact of this storm on Maharashtra like the earlier NISARG cyclone. However, there will be stormy winds, heavy rainfall in the Konkan region of Maharashtra," said Shibhangi Bhute from Indian Meteorological Department, Mumbai. She said the next two days are important for the people who are staying in the Konkan region. "We have directed them not to go out in the sea and asked the administration to prepare to tackle the after-effects of the storm."

In Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a review meeting on preparedness in the face of the cyclone. He instructed officials to ensure maintenance of essential services like power, telecommunications, health and drinking water.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force are being stationed at Gir Somnath, Amreli, Porbandar, Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Kutch, Morbi, Surat, Gandhinagar, Valsad, Bhavnagar, Navsari, Bharuch and Junagarh districts of Gujarat, an NDRF spokesperson said.

"The state government has made full preparations and a control room has been set up. Administrations of the districts in Saurashtra and south Gujarat regions, which are likely to be affected by the cyclone, have been alerted. Teams of the NDRF are reaching the state," Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told reporters.

The Union Home Ministry in an advisory to the Gujarat said the "very severe cyclonic storm" is likely to cause damage to thatched houses, roads, power and communication lines especially in the districts of the Saurashtra region.

In view of IMD's warning Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed the authorities in coastal districts of the state to remain alert and well-equipped to tackle the situation.

Udhav meets dist officials

In Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray directed collectors of Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg districts to take all necessary precautions

Fishermen walk away from the shore at Badhwar park jetty in Mumbai on Saturday due to formation of Cyclone Tauktae | PTI

Armed forces gear up for relief works

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

WITH Cyclone Tauktae approaching, armed forces on Saturday mobilised platforms and personnel to respond to emergency situations.

"The IAF has kept 16 transport aircraft and 18 helicopters on op readiness in peninsular India in preparation for the Cyclone Tauktae which is expected to cause very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall along the western coast of India in the next few days," Air Force spokesperson said.

In the process, one IL-76 aircraft has airlifted 127 personnel and 11 tonnes of cargo from Bhatinda in Punjab to Jamnagar in Gujarat. A C-130 aircraft has airlifted 25 personnel and 12.3 tonnes of cargo from Bhatinda to Rajkot. Two C-130 aircraft have airlifted 126 personnel and 14 tonnes of cargo from Bhubaneswar to Jamnagar. The Navy is on stand-by with ships, aircraft, helicopters, and relief teams.

"Cyclone Tauktae in Arabian Sea likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and further intensify into very severe cyclone storm PM 15/ AM 16 May. Likely to move NNW and cross between Porbander and Naliya, India on 18 May," Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) tweeted.

Additionally, IAF's Covid relief operations will be focused along the western coastal areas in the coming days, as bad weather is likely to affect air operations later on.

The relief operations are in addition to those that are already underway due to the pandemic, the IAF spokesperson said.

The National Disaster Response Force has increased from 53 to 100 the number of teams earmarked to undertake relief and rescue measures, a senior officer said on Saturday. The force's Director-General, S N Pradhan, said in a tweet that these teams are being mobilised for deployment in the coastal regions of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, and Maharashtra.

> Cyclone Tauktae in Arabian Sea likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and further intensify into very severe cyclone storm
> Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region

Yogi, Amarinder in public spat over Malerkotla

With months left for polls in both states, the duo traded barbs over Punjab's newest dist

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

WITH nine months remaining for the Assembly polls in both Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, a war of words erupted between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday over the latter's announcement of Malerkotla town as the 23rd district of Punjab.

Amarinder Singh

Yogi Adityanath

Amarinder had on Friday, on the occasion of Eid, announced that Malerkotla, Punjab's only Muslim-majority town, will be declared a separate district.

Adityanath on Saturday said any discrimination based on ideology or religion is against the fundamental spirit of the Constitution. "Any distinction on the basis of belief and religion is contrary to the basic spirit of the Constitution of India. Presently, the formation of Malerkotla (Punjab) is a reflection of the divisive policy of the Congress," Adityanath tweeted.

Amarinder responded saying the Yogi was trying to incite communal hatred in Punjab.

"What does he (Yogi Adityanath) know of Punjab's ethos or the history of Malerkotla, whose relationship with Sikhism and its Gurus was known to every Punjabi? And what does he understand of the Indian Constitution, which is being brazenly trampled every day by his own government in UP?" the Punjab chief minister asked.

"The whole world knows of the communally divisive policies of the BJP, and particularly the Yogi Adityanath government in UP," Amarinder later said in a statement. Amarinder asked Adityanath to focus on the Covid situation in his own state.

DESPERATE RIDE

People climb to the roof of a crowded bus in West Bengal's Nadia district to leave for their native places as the state on Saturday announced a lockdown | PTI

AAI takes stock of preparedness at airports on west coast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

OPERATION of scheduled flights to and from Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport was on Saturday suspended till 10 am on Sunday due to heavy rain and in light of the approaching Cyclone Tauktae. The airport will be made operational as and when a cyclone passes the area, officials said.

In view of the cyclone approaching the western coast of India, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has directed all airports on the west coast to take all necessary precautions and plan preparedness.

Keeping safety in mind and to minimize damage to the airport infrastructure, concerned airports have been advised to take prescribed precautionary measures—pre-cyclone and post-cyclone. The India Meteorological Department issued a weather forecast regarding pre-cyclone watch for south Gujarat and Diu coasts (depression over Lakshadweep area), AAI said. As per the forecast, it is very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours and intensify further. It is very likely to move north-northwestwards and reach near Gujarat coast by May 18 morning and a warning has been issued for Lakshadweep islands, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (Ghat districts), and Karnataka (coastal & adjoining Ghat districts).

West Bengal Governor breaks down before media during Nandigram visit

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

WEST Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar broke down while speaking to the media after visiting the violence-hit areas of Nandigram on Saturday.

"Where have I come? I can't believe what I have experienced. Democracy never permits such violence. I have never heard of such violence after elections," he said at Nandigram's Kendamari.

Dhankhar visited those areas where the BJP says the TMC workers unleashed violence.

"We can't sleep over such a great challenge to our state. We are sitting on a volcano where people are forced to leave their houses, they are being subjected to all kind of indignities, killings, rapes, loots and extortion tax. I would appeal to the chief minister, it is high time she takes note of it. Millions of people are suffering," Dhankhar said.

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar meets victims of post-poll violence in Nandigram on Saturday | PTI

On Thursday, Dhankhar visited Sitalkuchi in north Bengal where four people were gunned down by central forces on the election day. The next day, he went to Assam to meet people who fled there due to violence in Bengal. After Saturday's visit, the governor, who has been at loggerheads with the West Bengal chief minister, tweeted, "After listening to tales of sorrow no tears left in my eyes. Never imagined the severity of post-poll retributive violence."

Reacting to Dhankhar's Nandigram visit, TMC MP and spokesperson Saugata Roy, said, "No one takes him seriously. People in Bengal have understood that he is misusing his position and crossing constitutional limits."

Uranium in 83% of drinking water samples: BARC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

URANIUM was detected in 83.6 per cent of all the collected water samples during a nationwide survey by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for mapping of uranium content in drinking water.

About 55,554 surface and groundwater samples were collected for the survey. "Out of 12 water quality parameters measured to understand the geochemical processes governing uranium content in water sources, eight were found to exceed the acceptable limits set by the BIS for drinking water," said the study published in Current Science. Sulphate, chloride, nitrate, fluoride, total dissolved solids, alkalinity and hardness exceeded their limits by 4.2 per cent, 12.9 per cent, 14 per cent, 20.5 per cent, 34.3 per cent, 45 per cent and 51.6 per cent, respectively. Uranium content in 98 per cent of groundwater samples was within the national limit fixed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for radiological safety. "Dissolved uranium content in groundwater samples showed an upward trend with total dissolved solids and depth of water sources. No surface water samples exceeded the prescribed regulatory limit."

The study also found about 36 per cent, 30 per cent, 26.5 per cent, 6.2 per cent and 5.2 per cent of surface water samples exceeded the BIS recommended limits for hardness, alkalinity, TDS, fluoride, and nitrate.

EXPRESS READ

Assam: Lightning may have killed 18 jumbos

Guwahati: After a thorough examination of the carcasses of 18 elephants found dead in a forest in Assams Nagaon district, and circumstantial evidence, a team of experts suggested that the jumbos could have been killed by a lightning strike, an official release said on Saturday. However, the samples collected by the team are being examined for micro-biological and toxicological aspects.

Sacrilege case: Sidhu turns guns on Badals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chandigarh

CONGRESS leader and former Punjab minister of local government Navjot Singh Sidhu on Saturday attacked the state's former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and his son Sukhbir Singh Badal over the sacrilege case.

In a video clip, Sidhu is seen asking Badals to tell the public whether or not they gave orders to fire at those protesting the desecration of Guru Granth Sahib in 2015. He questioned Parkash Singh Badal over admitting that the Dera Sacha Sauda followers were behind the incidents as the Justice Ranjit Singh Commission Report reveals.

"Badals now speak about communal harmony. They should be questioned which Hindu or Muslim has objected to them. Only the Sikh community is objecting to you, holding you responsible for the incidents. If they (Badals) have anything to speak in their defence, they should come forward," he said.

"Thousands of cases are solved by Punjab Police on a daily basis, none requires an SIT or Inquiry Commission. I have elaborated the role of Badals behind Sacrilege, Behbal Kalan & Kotkapura firing multiple times," Sidhu tweeted.

Himanta has had a clear goal in life, says wife

Assam's new Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had a clear goal in life very early on, and he kept working hard to achieve it, revealed his wife Riniki Bhuyan. She said when the two of them first met 30 years ago, Sarma was 22 and she was 17. "When I sought to know of his future plans, so that I can tell my mother, he instantly replied: Tell her I will become the CM," an emotional Riniki reminisced after Sarma was sworn in as the CM on May 10. She said she was confident that Sarma will be able to solve major issues as he thinks not just with his head, but also with his heart. Sarma had started his political career with the All Assam Students' Union. He served the Cotton College Union Society as its general secretary for three terms in 1988-89, 1989-90, and 1991-1992.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

GUWAHATI DIARY

Dhankhar meets BJP workers who fled Bengal

As hundreds of BJP workers fleeing post-election violence in West Bengal began to take refuge along with their family in Assam's Dhubri district, West Bengal's Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar visited one of the two camps where they are sheltered. Accompanied by BJP MP Nisith Pramanik, Dhankhar visited the Ranpagli camp and interacted with the refugees. They had fled their homes in West Bengal after violence broke out in the aftermath of the election results being announced. They arrived over a period of three-four days. The Dhubri district administration has sheltered them in two makeshift camps. After visiting them, BJP Assam unit chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass had demanded the imposition of the President's rule in West Bengal.

Class XI exams called off due to Covid

The Assam Higher Secondary Education Council has cancelled higher secondary first-year examinations due to the Covid-19 situation. All the first-year students have been promoted to the second year. "The higher secondary first-year examinations, 2021, which was postponed, has now been cancelled and all the students, who have filled up online applications for the same are hereby declared to have been promoted to the higher secondary second-year class for the academic session 2021-2022," the council said in an order.

288 rail coaches turned into Covid-19 wards

Lending its support to the fight against the pandemic, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has converted 288 passenger coaches into Covid care isolation wards. They have altogether 4,608 beds. NFR General Manager Anshul Gupta said six railway hospitals with a total bed capacity of 354 were being equipped with oxygen plants. The hospitals are at Maligaon, New Bongaigaon, Lumding and Dibrugarh (all in Assam), Katihar (Bihar), and Alipurduar (West Bengal). According to Gupta, 477 Covid-19 patients have been treated at the railway hospitals since last month. Barring Meghalaya, the NFR operates in the entire Northeast and parts of Bihar.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	12	LC	Los Angeles	18	14	LC
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	16	10	LC
Dhaka	36	28	LC	Moscow	22	12	TDS
Dubai	39	27	SNY	New York	23	13	LC
Houston	27	23	TDS	Singapore	30	27	TDS
Istanbul	23	15	LR	Toronto	18	9	LC
London	14	9	LR	Washington	22	11	LC

Israeli airstrike on Gaza home kills 8 children

2 women also dead; Deadliest strike since battle with Hamas erupted earlier this week; West Bank, where Israel killed 11, witnesses Palestinian protest

Palestinians inspect the damage following Israeli air strikes on Saturday | AFP

GAZA CITY

AN Israeli air raid in Gaza City killed at least 10 Palestinians, mostly children, early Saturday in the deadliest single strike since the battle with Gaza's militant Hamas rulers erupted earlier this week. Both sides pressed for an advantage as ceasefire efforts gathered strength.

The latest outburst of violence began in Jerusalem and has spread across the region, with Jewish-Arab clashes in mixed cities of Israel. There were also widespread Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed 11 people.

The spiralling violence has raised fears of a new Palestinian 'intifada,' or uprising at a time when there have been no peace talks in years. Palestinians were set to mark Nakba (Catastrophe) Day on Saturday, when they commemorate the estimated 7,00,000 people who fled or were driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war. That raised the possibility of even more unrest.

> **There was no warning (before the Israeli forces bombed the building)... You (Israelis) filmed people eating and then you bombed them? Why are you confronting us? Go and confront the strong people!**
>
> Jamal Al-Naji, a resident of the bombed building

US diplomat Hady Amr arrived on Friday as part of Washington's efforts to de-escalate the conflict, and the UN Security Council was set to meet Sunday. But Israel turned down an Egyptian proposal for a one-year truce that Hamas rulers had accepted to discuss the negotiations. Since Monday night, Hamas has fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, which has pounded the Gaza Strip with strikes. In Gaza, at least 126 people have been killed, including 31 children and 20 women; in Israel, seven people have been killed, including a six-year-old boy and a soldier.

Rocket fire from Gaza and Israel's bombardment of the blockaded Palestinian territory continued into early Saturday, when an airstrike on a three-story house in a refugee camp in Gaza City killed eight children and two women from an extended family.

Mohammed Abu Hatab told reporters his wife and five children had gone to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday with relatives. She and three of the children, aged six to 14, were killed, while an 11-year-old is missing. Only his five-month-old son is known to have survived.

Children's toys and a Monopoly board game could be seen among the rubble, as well as plates of uneaten food from the holiday gathering.

Shortly afterward, Hamas said it fired a salvo of rockets at southern Israel in response to the airstrike. A furious Israeli barrage early Friday killed a family of six in their house and sent thousands fleeing to UN-run shelters. The military said the operation involved 160 warplanes dropping some 80 tons of explosives over the course of 40 minutes and succeeded in destroying a vast tunnel network used by Hamas.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said the military aims to minimise collateral damage in striking military targets. But measures such as warning shots to get civilians to leave, were not "feasible this time".

Israeli media said the military believed dozens of militants were killed inside the tunnels. The Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant groups have confirmed 20 deaths in their ranks, but the military said the real number is far higher.

Gaza's infrastructure, already in widespread disrepair because of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas seized power in 2007, showed signs of breaking down further, compounding residents' misery. The territory's sole power plant is at risk of running out of fuel in the coming days. *AP*

IRAN'S HARDLINE JUDICIARY CHIEF JOINS RUN FOR PREZ POST

DUBAI

IRAN'S judiciary chief, a hardline cleric linked to mass executions in 1988, registered on Saturday to run in the Islamic Republic's presidential election next month, a vote that comes as negotiators struggle to resuscitate Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

The cleric, Ebrahim Raisi, is among the more prominent hopefuls - he garnered nearly 16 million votes in the 2017 election. He lost that race to Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the atomic accord.

Raisi's close ties to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his popularity, due partly to his televised anti-corruption campaign, could make him a favourite in the election. Analysts already believe that hard-liners enjoy an edge as Rouhani is term limited from running again.

The public has widely grown disenchanted with Rouhani's administration after 2018, when then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew United States from the nuclear deal.

Ebrahim Raisi

EXPRESS READ

Neera Tanden appointed top White House advisor

Washington: Indian-American Neera Tanden has been appointed senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators. Tanden, 50, is slated to join the White House on Monday. She has been entrusted with two tasks ' launch a review of the US Digital Service, and plan contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JWO **SUMANT MISHRA** resident of SMQ-T/214/4, HQ Training Command (Unit), Air Force, JC Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bangalore (Karnataka) Pin - 560 006 have changed my Son's Name from **PRASANT MISHRA** to **PRASHANT MISHRA** vide Affidavit No. 1843 dated: 15th May 2021 before Notary N. Peruvazhuthi, at Bengaluru.

brides

Suitable match for brahmin bride groom koundinya age 28 BA LLB LLM POSTGRADUATE advocate.ANY BRAHMIN BRIDE/INTERCASTE ONE SHOULD BE BRAHMIN(status not important). Contact 8838578972 CL00422172

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Harohalli (14581) Branch, Kempaiah Building, Opp. KSRTC Bus Stand, B. K. Main Road, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562112, PH. No. 080-27563427 E-mail: bm1458@unionbankofindia.com ;

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-in connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Harohalli (14581) Branch,** offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Shankar G M S/o Girimallaiah No 125 Sindhya Nagar Harohalli Vi Po Ho Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant Geetha V** W/o Shankar No 125 Sindhya Nagar Harohalli Vi Po Ho Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	900000	2013-2021	Rs. 9,96,833.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 9,96,833.00** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building – Residential belonging to Shankar G M (owner of the Property), situated at House Property at Kaneshumari No. 3625, Property No. 16 Measuring 1600 Sqft Situated At Gundurao Layout Harohalli And **Bounded By: East By:** Road, **West By:** Property Of Saroajamma, **North By:** Site No. 15, **South By:** Road,

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Rajesh D C S/o Chude Gowda, Krishnappa Layout, 1st Block, Kaggalipura, Bangalore South-560062. **Co-Applicant: R Kokila** W/o Rajesh D C Krishnappa Layout, 1st Block, Kaggalipura, Bangalore South-560062.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	1200000	2015-2021	Rs. 11,24,911.22

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 11,24,911.22** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven and Twenty Two paise Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and building – Residential belonging to Rajesh D C (owner of the Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Bearing, Khatha No. 379, Old No. 1702, Situated At Kaggalipura Village, Uttharhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka -562112 And **Bounded By: East By:** Property Of Bheemappa, **West By:** Property Of K Nazeer And Sri K G Krishnappa, **North By:** Road, **South By:** Property Of K G Krishnappa

3. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Joythi P W/o Ashok Kumar L, 314,Kote Beedi 3rd Division Harohalli Vi Po Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant: Ashok Kumar L** S/o Lingaiah,14, Janatha Colony Kote Street Harohalli Vi Po Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	300000	2016-2021	Rs. 2,99,544.00
HLPGN	1200000	2015-2021	Rs. 10,96,167.56

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.13,95,711.56** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Ninety Five Thousands Seven Hundred and Eleven and Fifty Six paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building - Residential belonging to Joythi P (Owner of the Property), situated at All That Piece And Parcel of Land Bearing Site No 4, Khatha No 3266/3254/4, Situated In Janatha Colony, Harohalli Village & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka -562112. and **bounded by East**: Late Thimmaias Site, **West:** Mariyappas Site, **North :** Jattappa Site, **South :** Road

4. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Syed Ansar Pasha H A S/o Late Abdul Lateef, Bangalore Kanakapura Main Road, Near R H S High School, Harohalli Village, Post And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka - 562112. **1) Co-Applicant: Mohammed Suhail**, S/o Syed Ansar Pasha H A Bangalore Kanakapura Main Road, Near R H S High School, Harohalli Village, Post And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka - 562112. **2) Co-Applicant: Mohammed Bilal,** S/o Syed Ansar Pasha H A Bangalore Kanakapura Main Road, Near R H S High School, Harohalli Village, Post And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka-562112. **3) Co-Applicant: Mohammed Nawaz,** S/o Syed Ansar Pasha H A, 21/5, Ground Floor, 1st A Cross, Anam Enclave Layout, Saraipalya, Thanisandra, Bangalore North, Pin-560077. **4) Co-Applicant: Mohammed Zabee H S,** S/o Syed Ansar Pasha H A, Bangalore Kanakapura Main Road, Near R H S High School, Harohalli Village, Post And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka - 562112.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	1500000	2018-2021	Rs. 14.86,075 00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.14,86,075.00** (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eighty Six Thousand and Seventy Five) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building - Residential belonging to Late Mrs. Mubbin Taj W/o Syed Ansar Pasha H A (Owner of the Property). situated at All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari No 3169/200, Property No. 152900203701402990 measuring East to West 9.14 meters and North to South 12.19 meters. Situated at Harohalli Village And Post And Hobli. Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist And **Bounded On: East by :** Road, **West by :** Road, **North by :** House no 199 of javid, **South by :**Road

5. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: G. Bhanumathi W/o Gajendra, Ranganatha Layout, harohalli Vl & Po & HO Kanakapura Tq, **Co-Applicant: Gajendra E**, S/o Late R Ellappa No. 63, Kote, Harohalli Village, Kanakapura Tq, **Co-Applicant: Gopal G,** Yerehalli, Medemaranahalli Po, Harohalli Ho, Kanakapura Tq, Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	700000	2012-2021	Rs. 4,67,082.64
ABPTL	1100000	2016-2021	Rs. 9,75,062.91

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.14,42,145.58** (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Five and Fifty Eight paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building - Residential belonging to G Bhanumathi (Owner of the Property), situated at All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Kaneshumari No 560, Assessment No 423/B, Property No. 493/3 Situated At Harohalli Village & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Kamataka-562112. And **Bounded By: East:** Private Property Sold By Nandi Sanjeeva Bettappa, **West:** 20 Feet Road, **North :** Property No 4 Belongs To Suresh, **South:** Property No 4 Belongs To H V Vijayakumari.

6. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Srikanta S/o Bhoogashetty, 113-01 4th Block, Doddamaralawadi, Kanakapura Tq. **Co-Applicant: Jayanthi** W/o Srikanta, Indira Nagar, Doddamaralawadi, Vi Maralawadi Ho, Kanakapura Tq, Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Obligant** Chinnappa B S/o Bhogashetty Indira Nagar, Doddamaralawadi, Maralawadi Ho, Kanakapura Tq, Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
ABPTL	1000000	2017-2021	Rs. 8,24,428.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.8,24,428.00** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight and Zero paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Srikanta (Owner Of The Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of Land And Building In Property No 752/539 And 152900201600701003 Situated At Doodamaralawadi Maralawadi Anekal Road Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist And **Bounded By East:** Property Of Mohammed Iqbal, **West:** Road, **North:** Property Of Mohammed Iqbal, **South:** Property Of Mohammed Iqbal.

7. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Hanumanthaiah D K, S/o Late Kenchappa Dyvarasandra Vl Athikuppe, Harohalli Ho. Kanakapura Tq, Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant: Sunandamma** W/o Hanumanthaiah, Vill Dyavasandra Po, Athikuppe, Kanakapuara, Ramanagaram **Co-Obligant: Urugaiah H.M**, S/o Masanaiah 56/1, Main Road, Harohalli - 562 112. Kanakapura Taluk.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	800000	2011-2021	Rs. 5,75,795.67

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 5,75,795.67** (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy Five Thousands Seven Hundred Ninety Five and Sixty seven paise only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Hanumanthaiah D K (Owner Of The Property), Situated At House Site And Proposed No 172/92, Situated At Dyavasandra Village, Attikuppe Post, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka-562112 And **Bounded By East:** Property Of Jayamma, **West:** Property Of Muni Reddy, **North:** Property Of Hanumanthaiah, **South:** Government Road

8. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: S Bhaskar, S/o Sundara Raju, Vill Yedamadu Po, Kaggalahalli, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura, Ramanagaram. **Co-Applicant: Pramila** W/o S Bhaskara Edumudu Vi, Harohalli Po, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramangara Dist. **Co-Obligant: Suresh Kumar C,** S/o Channaiah Kumbara Street, B K Main Road, Harohalli, Kanakapura, Ramanagaram

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	900000	2012-2021	Rs. 6,37,972.08

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.6,37,972.08** (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two and Eight paise Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To S Bhaskar (owner of Property) situated At Residential Land And Building Site No. 27, Situated At Site No 27, Asseesseement No. 3224, Kaneshumari Katha No 3224/27, Situated at Ranganatha Extension, Harohalli Village & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka -562112 and **Bounded By East:** 10 Feet Road, **West:** Land Of Siddalingaiah, **North:** Property Of Shivalingaiah, **South:** Property Of Shivalingaiah

9. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Krishna Murthy R, S/o late Ramanujaiah, Bidadi Road, Harohalli Vl, PO, HO, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant: Vani H.P.** W/o R. Kaishna Murthy, Bidadi Road, Harohalli Vl, PO, HO, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	1000000	2016-2021	Rs. 8,64,612.44

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 8,64,612.44** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twelve and Forty Four Paise Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building – Residential belonging to Krishna Murthy R,(owner of the Property), situated at All that piece and parcel of site bearing, Khatha No. 4209/4005/10 and 4210/4005/11 situated at Bidadi Road, Harohalli Vill & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka -562112 and **Bounded by: East:** 20 feet Road, **West:** Land of Applicant, **North:** Plot No. 17, **South:** Plot No. 9.

10. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Manjula P W/o Nagesh, Ranganath Badavane, Harohalli Vl, PO, Ho, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant: Nagesh D** S/o Dodda Hombaiah, Ranganath Badavane, Harohalli Vl, PO, Ho, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	1000000	2013-2021	Rs. 7,46,964.00
HLPGN	500000	2015-2021	Rs. 4,89,199.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 12,36,163.00** (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Thirty SixThousand One Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building – Residential belonging to Manjula P (owner of the Property), situated at All that piece and parcel of site No. 27 Kaneshumari No. 2659, situated at Harohalli Village & Hobli, measuring East to West: 28 ft and North to South on Eastern Side 38 ft on western side 40 ft totally measuring 1092 Sqft and **Bounded by: East:** Site No. 28, **West:** Site No. 23, **North:** Property of A G N **South:** Govt Road.

11. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: G Deepa W/o G Thulasi Babu, 5th Main, Raghuvanahalli, KP Main Road, Bangalore, Raghuvanahalli - 560062, Bangalore South Dist. **Co-Applicant: Gurajala Thulasi Babu** 5th Main, Raghuvanahalli, KP Main Road, Bangalore, Raghuvanahalli - 560062, Bangalore South Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	2000000	2017-2021	Rs.19,26,615.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.19,26,615.00** (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging to G Deepa (Owner of the Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Site No 1, Old Khatha No 171, New Khatha No 171/2 Situated At Tataguni Village, Agara Dhakale, Kengeri Hobli, Measuring East To West 45 Sft And North To South 22ft Eastern Side & Western Side 18ft Totally Measuring 900 Square Feet And **Bounded On East By :** Private Property, **West By :** Road, **North By :** By Remaining Portion Of Northern Side Of The Same Site No 1, **South By :** By Remaining Portion Of Southern Side Of The Same Site No 1.

12. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mahesh S S/o Shivalingaiah, No.421, 5th Cross, BCMC Layout Kanakapura Main Road, Raghuvanhalli **Co-Applicant: Shivarathnamma W/o** Shivalingaiah, W/o No. 27, Shanabhoganahalli Vil, Ramanagara Taluk.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
HLPGN	1400000	2016-2021	Rs.12,52,209.54

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.12,52,209.54** (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred Nine and Fifty Four Paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging to Shivarathnamma (Owner of the Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Old Kaneshumari No. 55/38/3, Situated At Shanbhoganahalli Village, Ramanagara Taluk & Dist, Karnataka -562109 and **Bounded On East By :** Property of Ningaiah, **West By :**Property of Ningaiah, **North By :** Road, **South By :** Property of Shivalingaiah.

13. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Ajju S/o Nuraddin,Sindya Nagar, Harohalli Vill & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.,Karnataka – 562112. **Co-Applicant : Arshiya Taj** W/o Ajju, Sindya Nagar, Harohalli Vill & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.,Karnataka - 562112

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	ABPTL	200000	2017-2021	180928.00
2	HLPGN	600000	2016-2021	540598.00
3	HLPGN	100000	2016-2021	94,347.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.8,15,873** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Three) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land and Building - Residential belonging to AJJU (Owner of the Property), situated at All That Piece & Parcel Of Site Bearing No. 152900203701420883, Kaneshumari No. 3278/15 Situated At Sindya Nagar, Harohalli Vill & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka - 562112 and **bounded by East:** Road, **West** : Private Property, **North:** Site No 16, **South:** Site No 14

14. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Ayegowda S/o Durgaiah Chikkasadenahalli, Karikaldoddi, Maralavadi Road, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant Shobha S** W/o Ayyegowda Chikkasadenahalli Vil, Karikaladoddi Post, Maralwadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	ABPTL	1500000	2016-2021	Rs.14,62,522.40

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.14,62,522.40** (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Sixty Two Thousands Five Hundred and Twenty Two and Forty paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Mr Ayegowda (Owner Of The Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Bearing Khatha No 4/2 Property No.15290020130160004 Situated At Chikkasaden ahalli Vill, Karikaldoddi Post, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist Karnataka - 562112. Kanakapur And **Bounded By East:** Remaining Property Of Aye Gowda, **West:** Govt Road, **North:** Land Of Kariyappa, **South :** Remaining Property Of Aye Gowda

15. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Chaithra H V D/o: H K Venkatesh, 1st Division Kanakapura Taluk, Harohalli Hobli **Co-Applicant: Ravi H D,** S/o: Doddaiah, Anekal Main Road Kanakapura Taluk, Harohalli **Co-Obligant:** Venkatesh H K S/o Late Kariyappa Megala Beedi Harohalli Kanakapura Tq Ramanagaram Dist

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	HLPGN	1000000	2018-2021	Rs.8,60,204.40

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.8,60,204.40** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Thousand Two hundred and four and Forty paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Mrs Chaitra H V (Owner Of The Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshuari No 3160/3240/9/7, Property No 152900203701420652, Situated At Harohalli Village And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka -562112. And **Bounded By East:** Site No 8, **West :** Site No 6, **North:** Road, **South** : Site Of Rudraiah

16. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Eliyasi Pasha S/o Abdul Sattar, 238 3rd Cross Umar Bagh Layout JP Nagar Bangalore South Dist, Karnataka – 562112 **Co-Applicant: Ayisha Bi** W/o Eliyasi Pasha 238 3rd Cross Umar Bagh Layout JP Nagar Bangalore South Dist, Karnataka – 562112

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	HLPGN	1250000	2015-2021	Rs.12,29,703.00
2	HLPGN	450000	2016-2021	Rs.4,21,078.00
3	ABPTL	200000	2017-2021	Rs.1,87,135.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.18,37,916.00** (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Eliyasi Pasha (Owner Of The Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of The Land Bearing Khatha No 1477/880, Situated In Janatha Colony, Harohalli Village And Post And Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist And **Bounded On East By:** House Of Siddaiah, **West By :** Road **North By :** Site Of Jaggadish **South By :** Road.

17. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mayanna K, S/o Late Kempanna, Harohalli Fort, Near Maramma Temple Harohalli - 562 112. Kanakapura Taluk. **Co-Applicant: Rathnamma** W/o Mayanna Harohalli Fort, Near Maramma Temple Harohalli - 562 112, Kanakapura Taluk.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	HLPGN	800000	2012-2021	Rs.5,87,462.63

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs. 5,87,462.63** (Rupees Five Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and sixty two and sixty three paise) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Mayanna K (Owner Of The Property), Situated At House Site And Property No 18/3 Khaneshumari No 3723, Assessment No 3296, Situated At Harohalli Village & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, Karnataka-562112. And **Bounded By: East:** 25 Feet Road, **West:** Property Of Venkatesh, **North:** Road, **South:** Property Of Gopal

18. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: G V Manjesha, S/o Veerabhadraiah, Gottigehalli Village And Post Harohalli Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Applicant: Geetha** W/o G V Manjesha Gottigehalli Village And Post Harohalli Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist. **Co-Obligant : Veerabhadraiah G N** S/o Late Nanjegowda Gottigehalli Village And Post Harohalli Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	HLPGN	600000	2013-2021	Rs.5,40,216.00
2	HLPGN	250000	2015-2021	Rs. 2,30,841.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.7,71,057.00** (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventy one Thousand Fifty Seven Only) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To G V Manjesha (Owner Of The Property), Situated At Residential Land And Building Situated At Site No 45, Survey No 46, Situated At Saluhunase Village Kaggalipura Gram Panchyat Uttarahalli Hobli Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore Measuring East To West 20 Feet North To South 30 Feet In All Measuring 600 Sq Ft And **Bounded By East By:** Road, **West By:** Road, **North By:** Road, **South By:** Site No 46.

19. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mallesh G A S/O Appaji Gowda Halegabbadi Village Kaggalahalli Post Harohalli Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist Karnataka - 562112 **Co-Obligant:**Suresh T S S/o Shivanna Thamasandra Village Harohalli Post And Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist Karnataka - 562112.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility/Loan	Limits	During	Outstanding as on 31-03-2021
1	HLPGN	300000	2010-2021	Rs. 2,51,401.00
2	ABPTL	700000	2017-2021	Rs. 6,75,728.00

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, of **Rs.9,27,129** (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand and One Hundred Twenty Nine) as on **06.04.2021** with subsequent interest as per the agreement(s).

NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 06.04.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets: Land And Building - Residential Belonging To Mallesh G A (Owner Of The Property), Situated At All That Piece And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing No.46, Khatha No. 48 At Halegabbadi Village Kaggalahalli Post Harohalli Hobli Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara Dist And **Bounded On East By :** House Of Smt. Mahadevamma **West By :** House Of Smt. Jayalakshmamma **North By :** Property Of Mr. Mahalingappa **South By :** Government Raja Beedi

20. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: Mr. Sridhar M S/o Mayanna K, Sri Kabbalamma Digital Studio & Video, N. R. Holla Building, Opp. KSRTC Bus Stand, Harohalli Village, Post & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist.Pin – 562112 **Co-Obligant: Mr. Mayanna K** S/o Late Kempashetty, #408, Sindhiya Nagara, Opp. Lakshminarasamma Temple, Harohalli Village, Post & Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. – 562112

Name of Facility Amount Due

| Facility & Account Number | Limit Sanctioned (Rs.) | Applicable Rate of interest | Running Ledger O/S (Rs.) | Interest payable In Rs.

$589.46 bn was India's foreign exchange reserve as of May 7, according to RBI data—an increase of $1.444 billion over the previous week

GST Council to examine tax cut on medical goods

Compensation shortfall also on agenda for first meeting since Oct

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER a wait of over six months, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will meet on May 28 to discuss a host of important pending issues, including proposals to reduce GST on essential medicines and equipment used to treat Covid-19 and the shortfall in GST compensation this year. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 43rd meeting of the council via video-conferencing, a tweet from her official account said.

According to sources, the meeting will discuss proposed reductions in GST levied on vaccines, Covid-19-related medicines, oxygen cylinders, and other items. While the finance ministry has already given import duty relief on Covid- related medical supplies and vaccines, state ministers have constantly asked for a similar relief on locally produced vaccines too.

Odisha Chief Minister Navin Patnaik wrote in a letter to Sitharaman last week that states have been asked to purchase vaccines for people in the 18-45 years age group and that GST on vaccines would make the purchases costly for them. Even though the finance minister has given a long reply on GST-related issues, the states have insisted that they want a discussion at the earliest.

Another matter which is likely to be discussed in the meeting is regarding the shortfall in GST compensation to states. Despite robust collections, the shortfall is likely to be around ₹1.6 lakh crore this year, according to experts. Last year, the Council had worked out a financing method with the Centre borrowing on behalf of the states. It has to now examine whether there is a need to continue the same formula for this financial year too.

The Council has not met since last October though there were multiple requests for meetings by the states. Two days ago, the issue was raised in a strongly worded letter from the West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, who wrote, "... the GST Council was mandated to meet once in every quarter. Unfortunately, this solemn mandate has been violated twice over, by not calling a meeting... for two consecutive quarters... I fear that not holding meetings regularly may also lead to a trust deficit. In order to restore the sanctity of the Council, I sincerely urge you to call a virtual meeting".

The GST Council was mandated to meet once in every quarter. Unfortunately, this solemn mandate has been violated twice over, by not calling a meeting for two consecutive quarters —Amit Mitra, FM, WB

NEWSCOPE

TRUMPISM IN COMMAND as Republicans head toward a split

GURBIR SINGH

IT is reported that it took just 16 minutes for the Republicans in the US House of Representatives to remove Elizebeth Cheney from the 'Conference Chair', a status which gave her the No.3 position in the Republican Party's leadership in the House. She was in the dock for being one of the 10 Republicans to have voted to impeach former US President Donald Trump; and for repeatedly calling him out for what is now called the 'Big Lie'—that the 2020 election was stolen.

The Wednesday meeting of Republicans was clearly with Trump. Some of them booed Cheney. North Carolina's Representative Madison Cawthorn tweeted: "Na na na na, na na na na, hey hey, goodbye Liz Cheney". The removal of Liz Cheney, daughter of the Gulf War hawk and former vice president Dick Cheney, is a watershed moment in American politics. It represents the complete and final control of Donald Trump over the post-election Republican Party.

For liberals the world over, it raises the frightful possibility of meeting Trump again as presidential hopeful in 2024. The only glimmer of hope is if the party's old conservatives manage to force a split and form a new Republican Party.

Donald darling

In post-poll America, the old realty show anchor has lost some ground. An NBC poll after Joe Biden's 100 days in office showed 44 per cent Republican voters said they are more supporters of Trump than of the party, while 50 per cent said they were more supporters of the party than of Trump. His overall approval ratings among all sections have also slipped to just 32 per cent.

But the brazen way in which Republicans swept away Liz Cheney is the clearest signal that for now Donald Trump and the Republican Party are in lockstep; and those that thought Trump would retire to playing golf at his Mar-a-Lago estate at Florida after the elections are in for a rude shock. The grassroot Republican supporter has firmly bought the Trump rant that 'the elections were stolen'. Trump continues to be darling of core Republicans who think it is only Trump that can speak tough and act tough; and can make America Great Again!

At the grassroots, the Republican party has swung culturally to the right becoming a White Nationalist, semi-racist party, dominantly male and standing for US Supremacy. That is why Republican senators and House representatives, even if they are against their country's institutions being torn apart by Donald Trump, know they cannot face their local constituency in opposition to Trump.

Republican senator Mitt Romney, who broke ranks and twice voted for Trump's impeachment, was loudly booed at the Utah Republican party convention on May 1 and called a "traitor" and a "communist". Kevin McCarthy, the minority leader in the House and a reluctant Trump supporter earlier, has now allied himself completely with Donald Trump. With Republicans just five seats short, he realizes Trump is his ticket to becoming House leader after the mid-term elections, scheduled for 2022, when the GOP is likely to go into majority.

Republican states meanwhile are moving swiftly to tamper with the election machinery to exclude those who they see as long-term opponents. Georgia has just passed a bill that makes it an offence to provide food or water to voters queued up. Tacitly it is to discourage black majority groups to support their constituents.

Conservative rebellion

Trump's demand for loyalty to supporting his myths has triggered traditional conservatives fighting for space. More than 100 Republicans, including some former elected officials, have signed a letter demanding the Republican party clean up or they walk out and form a third party.

"When in our democratic republic, forces of conspiracy, division, and despotism arise, it is the patriotic duty of citizens to act collectively in defense of liberty and justice," the preamble to the letter declares.

Many of the big names include former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman and former Transportation Secretary under George W. Bush, Mary Peters. Former Trump press secretary Anthony Scaramucci and official Olivia Troye also signed the statement. Liz Cheney hopes to be one of the leaders of this 'reformist' group.

But considering what Trumpism is about, there is little chance of internal reform. The Grand Old Party (GOP) is moving swiftly rightwards, transforming itself into a White Nationalist Party, something in the image of the Marine Le Pen's French semi-fascist 'National Rally'?

"Liz Cheney is the GOP of the past. We are not going back," CNN quoted House Republican Boebert after the vote against Cheney.

For Joe Biden, having succeeded in making his vaccination programme the uniting force for America, a Republican split will make the Democrats stronger. On the hand, a frenzied Republican Party under a re-energized Trump may become a difficult challenge in the future.

Transporters left in the lurch as second wave lockdowns sap demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

THE steady, inexorable spread of the Covid-19 second wave and the inevitable lockdowns that follow have begun to sap the strength of India's 5.5 million-strong truck fleet. According to industry bodies and research institutes, the road transport sector has taken a substantial hit in terms of both income and infection count this summer.

The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) puts the percentage of trucks currently idle due to lack of demand at around 60 per cent, while the Indian Foundation of Transport Research and Training (IFTRT) claims that a survey among truck drivers and helpers suggests that many reported Covid-19 or flu-like symptoms but have not been able to access PT-PCR tests.

In a letter to the government seeking a blanket loan moratorium for the sector until August 31, 2021, the AIMTC claimed that small operators (with up to five vehicles), who constitute 85 per cent of the segment, were struggling due to demand diving following state-specific lockdowns.

"About 60 per cent of the transport sector is idle and is financially crippled. The current scenario in the country has impaired the livelihood of the small operators (both Cargo segment, the passenger segment) even as they are forced to pay the statutory fees, Establishment Costs, Payment of Salaries, EMIs, Maintenance, Fitness, Permit Fees, Taxes, Insurance, etc, even though the vehicles keep standing," said Kultaran Sinh Atwal, president, AIMTC.

Small operators

According to the AIMTC, a large majority of India's truck fleet operators are small businesses who are economically vulnerable, with 85 per cent owning only up to five vehicles

While the economic impact has been significant, with the AIMTC claiming losses running into hundreds of crores everyday, workers in the sector have also suffered more directly in the hands of the virus. According to S P Singh, Senior Fellow and Coordinator, IFTRT, a survey conducted among 85,000 respondents indicates that around 2-2.5 lakh drivers and helpers may have experienced Covid-like symptoms during the second wave. "Apart from the above stated conservative estimates of sick drivers and helpers, the total number of truck, bus, and taxi drivers suffering from Covid-19 and other viral infections couldeasily be 4-4.25 lakh going by present assessment based on over 75 transport centres," Singh said.

VIOLATIONS

E-commerce firms flouting lockdown rules, alleges CAIT

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S various state-level trade bodies and the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) have accused e-commerce giants of flouting rules on the sales of non-essential products during the lockdown. Unlike last year, when the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had directed e-tailers to stop selling non-essential commodities, this year, the respective state administrations are required to decide on the same.

CAIT General Secretary, Praveen Khandelwal told this publication that over the past 45 days, due to the lockdown imposed in major parts of the country, traders face estimated losses to the tune of ₹15-16 lakh crore. He added that not being allowed to resume operations post the allotted timings, and selling only essential commodities has significantly impacted business. "There are no supply chain constraints yet. Thanks to the manufacturing units still running almost with half of their capacity and interstate movement of goods allowed, the stocks have not exhausted yet. However , with the continued lockdown, we may face issues from next week onwards," he added. On the other hand, the trader body has petitioned the commerce ministry to take strict action against e-commerce firms for violating "break the chain" orders.

"Our traders in various states have purchased non-essential products from these platforms during the lockdown period, clearly indicating a violation of the guidelines by the etailers. Except Madhya Pradesh, the sale or delivery of non-essential products has been prohibited all over the country. However, e-commerce companies like Amazon, Flipkart have not complied with the directions," Khandelwal went on to claim.

Amazon launches new video streaming service

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

AMAZON on Saturday announced the launch of a free video streaming, in-app feature called miniTV. The ad-supported streaming service is its first such initiative globally and the e-tailer is targeting users outside its Prime subscription base, which comprises millions of users who can also avail the Amazon Prime Video service for ₹999 a year.

With the new free video streaming service, however, Amazon is moving closer towards setting up a super app with a wide array of services such as payments, e-commerce, and food delivery available on one platform. Amazon's rival Flipkart also offers OTT streaming services within the app, a feature launched in 2019.

"With the launch of miniTV, Amazon.in shopping app is now a single destination for customers to shop from millions of products, make payments and watch free entertainment videos," the e-tailer said in a statement.

With this launch, Amazon now has two video entertainment offerings: miniTV and Prime Video. miniTV is completely free and it does not require a separate app, while Prime Video requires a Prime subscription and offers a large collection both Indian and foreign content. Viewers can access Prime Video on the app or stream it on their smart TVs.

The miniTV feature on Amazon app is available for Android phone users (which constitutes a majority of India's smartphone users.

Business & Beyond

IOB convenes EGM for ₹4,100 cr infusion

Indian Overseas Bank convened an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders and obtained their approval for the issuance of 246,54,23,932 equity shares to GoI on a preferential basis for a Capital infusion of ₹4,100 crore by GOI. The virtual EGM was attended by Directors, Shareholders and other stakeholders of the Bank. The issue price of equity share is ₹16.63 per share (including share premium of ₹6.63 per share). Of the ₹4,100 crore, ₹2,465.42 crore will be credited to Share Capital Account and ₹1,634.58 crore to Share Premium Account.

SBI allocates ₹71 crore for Covid relief

State Bank of India (SBI) has allocated ₹71 crore to undertake various support initiatives to help the country combat the second wave of Covid-19. The Bank has dedicated ₹30 crore to setup 1,000 bed makeshift hospitals, 250 bed ICU facilities, and 1,000 bed isolation facilities across some of the worst-hit states. These facilities would be set up in collaboration with government hospitals and Municipal Corporations of the respective cities. SBI is also in talks to explore partnerships for setting up makeshift hospitals across the country.

EXPRESS READ

'No denial of vaccine for lack of Aadhaar'

New Delhi: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Saturday said that no one should be denied vaccine, medicines, hospitalisation, or treatment because they do not have an Aadhaar. In a statement, the UIDAI said that Aadhaar should not be misused as an excuse for denial of any essential service and that there was a well-established exception handling mechanism (EHM) for Aadhaar which should be used followed to ensure delivery of benefits and services.

Power demand dips during first fortnight of May

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

PAN-India power consumption data for the first fortnight of May (May 1-15) indicates that the expansion of Covid-19 lockdowns across the country has begun having an impact on electricity demand. While the month of April 2021 had recorded lower consumption than March 2021, the fall had been marginal-going from 121.51 billion units (BU) to 119.27 BU.

However, the first fortnight of May 2021 has witnessed a far steeper fall of 12 per cent compared to the previous 15-day period. Power ministry data shows that compared to the 58.65 BU of electricity consumed pan-India in the last two weeks of April 2021, the first two weeks of May recorded only 51.67 BU of demand. In fact, power consumption demand has been on a steady sequential fall since the beginning of this financial year as incremental restrictions to control the second wave have begun taking away commercial and industrial demand-from 60.62 BU in the first fortnight of April 2021 to 51.67 BU in the first fortnight of May.

"March was a good month in terms of recovering demand, but commercial establishments like malls and shopping districts began to be closed down beginning April and this has now accelerated. Commercial demand has been hit hard and the imposition of wider lockdowns in May are bound to have an effect on industrial demand too," said a senior executive at a state-run discom.

While bad, the dip is nowhere close to the demand devastation recorded during the peak of the nationwide lockdown imposed last summer. In the first two weeks of May 2020, consumption had come in at just 43.55 BU. For the month of April 2020, this figure had stood at just 84.55 BU-down from 110.11 BU in April 2019. For the entire month of May 2020, power demand had stood at 102.08 BU. India Ratings and Research said in a note last week that containment measures would hit power consumption during the first quarter.

SER runs first oxygen express towards TN

South Eastern Railway, which said that it is committed to extend the service of Oxygen Express Trains towards more destinations, has sent the first such train towards Tiruvallur near Chennai (Tamil Nadu) originating from Rourkela in SER's jurisdiction. The train carried 31.40 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in two tankers. One more train has left Tatanagar for Dehradun (Uttarakhand) carrying 120 tonnes of life-saving LMO, and another two were sent to Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) from Tatanagar with 120 tonnes and 40 tonnes of LMO respectively. Since April 23, a dedicated team of the South Eastern Railway has initiated a total of 57 Oxygen Express trains with 3477 tonnes of LMO.

Lewandowski equals Mueller's 49-yr-old Bundesliga record

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scored his 40th goal of the 2020-21 Bundesliga season to equal German legend Gerd Mueller's tally for a single season in Germany, which the latter set in the 1971-72 season. Lewandowski's goal came in a 2-2 draw against Freiburg. Lewandowski can still overtake Mueller as Bayern have one game left this season.

THE BURDEN OF HEAVY WAIT

With uncertainty in regards to competitions, athletes trying to make Tokyo Olympics cut left in the lurch

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN/ FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

IN February 2020, Udayan Mane was mentally preparing himself to represent India at the Olympics. Having just won a PGTI event, the golfer was inside the top 60 in the Race To Tokyo. He remained in the top 60 in that particular list for well over a year. But with a paucity of PGTI events since the turn of the year — there has just been three with the last finishing in the third week of March — Mane hasn't had the opportunity to pick up ranking points.

The net effect? He's now on the replacement list, depending on others to withdraw to have a chance. "There is definitely a feeling of helplessness about the whole situation," he tells this daily when asked to sum up his feelings. Currently World No 309, he doesn't have a card on the points rich European Tour or the PGA Tour. Because the Asian Tour — where Mane has a card — is yet to restart since the pandemic began last February, he is been reduced to sending letters to a number of organisers in the hope of scoring a few events to climb back into the top 60. However, he's been met with disappointments. "I spoke with a few of them but none of them have world ranking points up for grabs so I can't really do much at the moment."

He's also been speaking to PGTI but the news isn't positive. "They told me there are plans to restart the season from July but the cut off for the Olympics is June 21." The 30-year-old turns philosophical when he speaks about his coping mechanism. "But then this won't be the last Olympics, another one will come

Udayan Mane

along in three years' time. That's what you keep telling yourself."

The golfer is in a growing list of Indian athletes who are on the fringes of making the Olympics cut but with travel restrictions and a paucity of competitions, they have no other option but to stay in optimum physical fitness and hope for a few lucky breaks. Another person who is in the same boat as Mane is Srihari Nataraj. The swimmer, who has a 'B' time, needs to go under Olympic Qualification Time (OQT), otherwise known as the 'A' time, is confident that he will meet that standard. However, he is currently in lockdown in Bengaluru. "I am taking care of my physical fitness and just been staying home," he says.

The 20-year-old doesn't know if having a 'B' time against his name is an advantage. "I don't really know if having it is an advantage. I haven't really spoken to the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) with respect to meets. I have left that to my coach." The thing is the backstroke specialist won't even get access to international events. Even if he manages to leave the country, he may first to quarantine for an x amount of days before events.

The situation is somewhat similar for the judokas. The Worlds, in Budapest early next month, is a bonanza in terms of ranking points but there is a caveat. Travel restrictions. "The participation is subject to government's approval and existing Covid-19 protocols in Hungary," a JFI official had told this daily. It's so uncertain that one of the judokas who is in contention to take part said talking about participation will only be firmed up if and when they land in Budapest.

If the golfers, swimmers and judokas can at least afford to hope against hope, the plight of the badminton players are worse. Take Ashwini Ponnappa for example. With as many as three badminton events postponed, there are no more qualifying events. As a result, Ponnappa will miss the mixed doubles slot by less than 7000 ranking points. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and she has 37,497 points. But she can't do anything about it.

They just have to hope against hope. And pray for a miracle.

Lifters to depart for Tashkent on May 18 to take part in Jr Worlds

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

INDIAN weightlifters — Jeremy Lalrinnunga (67kg) and Achinta Sheuli (73kg) — will fly for Tashkent, Uzbekistan on May 18 to take part in the IWF Junior World Championships. The event, slated from May 21 to 31, offers crucial ranking points, which in turn will help Jeremy to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. It is also the first qualifying event for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Indian squad will also comprise two coaches, a physiotherapist and a masseur.

"Jeremy has a good chance of making an Olympic cut. If he manages to lift 315kg or more, he can surely make the cut but again it all depends on the final rankings which will be announced after the event," coach Pramod Kumar Sharma, who will accompany the team, told this daily.

Jeremy Lalrinnunga

The 18-year-old lifter from Mizoram is in line to secure the continental quota for the Games. However, South Korean lifter Han Myeongmok is ahead of him in the world ranking list. Myeongmok has around 100 Robi points more than his Indian counterpart. Jeremy has a chance to overtake him as the South Korean lifter is not competing in the junior championships. Mirabai Chanu (49kg) is the only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Games so far. She is currently training in St Louis, USA and will fly directly to Tokyo for the sporting extravaganza.

However, lifting 315kg or more will not be easy for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games champion as Jeremy's personal best in the international event is 306kg (140kg in snatch and 166kg in clean and jerk). It came at the Qatar International Cup in Doha in 2019. Besides, he developed knee pain while competing in the Asian Championships last month, which may prevent him from giving his best.

"The pain has subsided, but I need time to recover fully. I hope I can give my best in the junior world event and qualify for the Games," said Jeremy.

Each team member will need to produce Covid negative certificate obtained 72 hours before the scheduled departure from New Delhi on Tuesday morning. They will also be tested at the Tashkent airport on arrival. It was learnt that the team members will take an RT-PCR test on Saturday evening.

"The Covid protocols are almost same as the Asian Championships last month. I will also leave with the team as I would be refereeing in the event," said Sahdev Yadav, secretary-general of the Indian Weightlifting Federation. Speaking on Jeremy's plan if he qualifies, Yadav said, "We want him to train in the USA along with Mirabai. It will be finalised once he qualifies."

WFI mulls Europe trip for Oly-bound wrestlers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

HARD quarantine norms forced Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to cancel a proposed national camp for eight Olympic-bound wrestlers at SAI centre in Sonepat, Haryana. The wrestlers will now train in Poland, Hungary and Turkey apart from competing in two international events before the Tokyo Olympics.

Bajrang Punia

As many as eight wrestlers (four men in freestyle and as many women) have qualified for the Games. They were supposed to assemble in Sonepat on Tuesday. However, the restrictions at the centre meant the wrestlers could not resume training before serving a 14-day mandatory quarantine period.

"We have submitted the plan for training-cum-competition in Poland, Hungary and Turkey. All the wrestlers will go there with their respective sparring partners," one of the coaches, who is expected to accompany the team, told this newspaper.

Polish capital Warsaw will host the ranking series from June 8 to 13. The event will help Indian wrestlers earn ranking points and improve their seedings, which in turn will give them a favourable draw at the Olympics. "We will stay in Poland for a training camp and the ranking series before spending around a week in Hungary. The team will then head for Istanbul, Turkey, where it will compete in Yasar Dogu international meet slated to be held from June 25-27," added the coach.

The team will return to the country before flying out to Japan for the Games.

Vinesh Phogat (53kg), who is training abroad with her foreign coach Woller Akos, will join the team in Poland. Bajrang Punia (65kg), Ravi Dahiya (57kg) and Deepak Punia (86kg) will be accompanied by their respective foreign coaches.

All the wrestlers barring Sumit Malik (125kg) and Sonam Malik (62kg) look ready for the trip at the moment. The two of them are recovering from their respective knee injuries sustained during the recently-held international tournaments.

However, the WFI looks optimistic of their participation. "It will take about 10 more days to make all the arrangements, so hopefully they can recover from injuries and be part of the trip," Vinod Tomar, WFI's assistant secretary, was quoted as saying by *PTI*.

LEICESTER MOMENT

Leicester City's Youri Tielemans (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring in the FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley Stadium in London, on Saturday | AFP

HISTORIC FA CUP WIN FOR THE FOXES

WEMBLEY: Youri Tielemans scored a magnificent goal against Chelsea to help Leicester City clinch the FA Cup for the first time in the history of the competition here on Saturday. After goalless opening first half, Tielemans broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute, beating goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga with a sweet strike from distance. Chelsea gave everything they had to offer, even being denied a goal by VAR towards the end, but they were unable to find that vital equaliser. Leicester will also be thankful to their goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, who made couple of stunning saves. On Friday, Manchester City beat Newcastle 4-3 in the Premier League.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka lad in India team for World Junior Tennis Championship

BENGALURU: Karnataka lad Kriish Ajay Tyagi will represent the Indian team for the 2021 ITF World Junior Tennis Championship (Under-14) Asia / Oceania Final Qualifying round to be held at the National Tennis Centre in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan from June 7-12.

Chhetri & Co to leave for Qatar May 19

NEW DELHI: The Indian football team will leave for Qatar on May 19 after the gulf country accepted All India Football Federation's (AIFF) request to allow its players to train there ahead of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers next month. Qatar has even agreed to the AIFF's request to waive the mandatory 10-day hard quarantine. The players will have a camp of nearly two weeks in a bio-bubble in Qatar before the first match on June 3.

Sthalekar slams BCCI on Veda case

PTI @ New Delhi

FORMER Australian women's team captain Lisa Sthalekar feels the BCCI neither checked on Veda Krishnamurthy after the twin tragedies in her family nor communicated to the bereaved India cricketer its decision to not consider her for the upcoming tour of England.

Earlier this month, the flamboyant middle-order India batter lost her elder sister Vatsala Shivakumar to Covid-19, two weeks after her mother succumbed to the dreaded virus.

On expected lines, she was not included in the Indian Test and ODI team for next month's tour of the United Kingdom, but ICC Hall of Famer Sthalekar was not convinced with the BCCI's handling of the whole episode.

"Whilst not selecting Veda for the upcoming series may be justified from their point of view, what angers me the most is that as a contracted player she has not received any communication from BCCI, just to even check how she is coping," Sthalekar said in a note on her Twitter handle. She added, "A true association should deeply care about the players that play the game... not focus solely on just the game at any cost. So disappointed."

The 28-year-old Bengaluru-based Veda recently paid an emotional tribute to her sister and mother, who succumbed to the virus in a span of two weeks. The all-rounder, who has been helping others through her social media by amplifying their requests for aid, has represented India in 48 ODIs and 76 T20s.

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Athletes need decision on Oly: Federer

AFP @ Geneva

ROGER FEDERER said Friday that athletes need a firm decision on whether the Tokyo Olympics are going ahead, with the tennis star saying he was in two minds over the Games.

An Olympics singles gold medal is the only major honour missing from the Swiss great's collection — but the 39-year-old said he would understand if the Games were called off.

The pandemic-postponed 2020 Olympics are due to open on July 23. "It's difficult," Federer told Switzerland's *Leman Bleu* television.

World No 1 Novak Djokovic hits a return against Stefanos Tsitsipas | AFP

"We're not hearing much. That makes me think the Games will happen, even if I've heard that lots of people in Tokyo are against the Games."

With Tokyo and other areas already under emergency orders until the end of May, three more regions — including northern Hokkaido, which will host the Olympic marathon — now join them. The widening emergency, aimed at combatting a fourth wave putting Japan's medical system under strain, comes with public opinion firmly opposed to holding the Games, fearing further infections. "Honestly I don't know what to think," said Federer.

"I would love to play in the Olympics, win a medal for Switzerland, that would make me so proud. But if that doesn't happen due to the situation, I would be the first to understand. w"But I think what the athletes need is a decision: is it happening or isn't it?"

Djokovic beats Tsitsipas

ROME: World No 1 Novak Djokovic survived a three-set battle with Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas over two days in their rain-delayed quarterfinals to advance to the Italian Open semifinals on Saturday. The defending champion won through 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 after 3hr 16min.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
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पत्रांक सं. 358 दिनांक 15.05.2021

E-TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Dy General Manager, IT, UJVN Limited, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 01/DGM(IT)/2021-22
Name of work.: Maintenance and Support of SAP ERP at UJVN Limited
Estimated cost : ₹ 4.137 Crore (Excluding GST)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 17/05/2021 at 11:00 AM
Last date for submission of bids on website: 19/06/2021 at 06:00 PM
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in"

Dy General Manager,
IT, UJVN Limited, Dehradun

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
National Health Mission
District Health & Family Welfare Society ® Hassan, District Health & Family Welfare Office, Beside Hassanamba Indoor Stadium, Salagame road, Hassan
Email: dhohassan@gmail.com Ph: 08172-246575
No:NHM/HSN/DPMU/ RBSK/Veh/64/2021-22. Date: 11/5/2021

Short Term - Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement)

Online tender is invited under KTPP Act 1999 and rule made there under in Two Covers bid system from the intending and eligible Proprietors / Firm's /Tours and Travelling agencies for providing 20 vehicles with drivers, 2017 Model onwards as specified in E-Tender Document on monthly rental basis. For the use of RBSK Teams and DPMU Staffs to implement, supervision and monitoring of various Health Programmes under National Health Mission in the 8 Taluks of Hassan District. Total EMD of Rs.1,39,200/-. The detailed Tender Document may be downloaded from web site https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for information. The bids shall be submitted online before Dt: 26/05/2021, 05:30 PM. The Technical bid will be opened online at Dt: 29/05/2021. 11:00 AM. For any further clarifications the above office may be conducted.

Sd/- District Health and
Family Welfare Officer, Hassan

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/96/2020-21

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing 6 Feet | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕಾರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ದೂ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 0836-2748522
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : cfwpsdwd@aranya.gov.in

ಸಂ: ಎ2/ಬಿಜಿಟಿ/ಗಡಿಮೋಜಣಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ/2021-22 ಧಾರವಾಡ ದಿ: 11-05-2021

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-01/2021-22 (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ **"ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ"** ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

(1) ಗದಗ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ ವಲಯದ ಕಪ್ಪತ್ತಗುಡ್ಡ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಬ್ಲಾಕ ನಂ. IV ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿಟ್ಟ/ರಕ್ಷಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿ ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1.50ಮೀ. X0.25ಮೀ. X0.25ಮೀ. ಅಳತೆಯ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರಿನ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಣ್ಣ ಹಚ್ಚುವುದು. ಒಟ್ಟು 35.50 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಹಾಗೂ 248 ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **38,52,095.66/-** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2%) ರೂ. **75,000.00/-**

(2) ಹಾವೇರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಧುಂಡಶಿ ವಲಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿಟ್ಟ/ರಕ್ಷಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿ ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1.50ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. ಅಳತೆಯ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರಿನ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಣ್ಣ ಹಚ್ಚುವುದು. ಒಟ್ಟು 35.60 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಹಾಗೂ 248 ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **38,52,941.17/-** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2%) ರೂ. **75,000/-**

(3) ಹಾವೇರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಧುಂಡಶಿ ವಲಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿಟ್ಟ/ರಕ್ಷಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿ ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1.50ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. ಅಳತೆಯ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರಿನ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಣ್ಣ ಹಚ್ಚುವುದು. ಒಟ್ಟು 38.25 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಹಾಗೂ 269 ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **41,76,116.27/-** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2%) ರೂ. **80,000.00/-**

(4) ಹಾವೇರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಧುಂಡಶಿ ವಲಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿಟ್ಟ/ರಕ್ಷಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿ ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1.50ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. X0.25 ಮೀ. ಅಳತೆಯ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರಿನ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಣ್ಣ ಹಚ್ಚುವುದು. ಒಟ್ಟು 33.75 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಹಾಗೂ 236 ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **36,65,431.19/-** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2%) ರೂ. **70,000.00/-**

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ : ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಮೋಜಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಗೆ 7 (ಏಳು) ರಂತೆ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪಿಲ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಳವಡಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24-05-2021** ರ ತನಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **25-05-2021**ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3:00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **27-05-2021** ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3:45 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **29-05-2021** ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4:00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಆ ದಿವಸವು ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸರಕಾರ ರಜೆ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಏನಾದರೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/117/2021-22

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
MANDYA-571401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
(Fax & Phone : 08232-231001, 222086,
E-mail:mimsmandya@gmail.com)
Website:www.mimsmandya.org

Notification No:MIMS/sup/T.H/S.E-Tend/Tab,Inj Dis/Covid-19/06/2021-22 Date:14.05.2021

Short Term E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

MIMS, Mandya, invites Short Term E-tender for supply of Tablets, Injection, Disposable & others Items needed fo the Covid-19 patients of MIMS Teaching Hospital from the Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers in Two Cover Bid System as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000

Sl. No : **01.** Tender Particulars : **Tablets, Injections, Disposable & Others Items.** Approximate Cost (Rs) : **1,98,00,000/- (One Crore Ninety Eight Lakhs Only).** Submissions of e-Tender by paying Non refundable fees Commences from **14.05.2021** and the last date for filing of Tenders is **21.05.2021 upto 5.30 P.M.** Further details can be had from website : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** More details may be obtained from the MIMS office during working hours. (Except General Holiday/s).

Sd/-Chief Administrative Officer,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya

DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/084/2021-22

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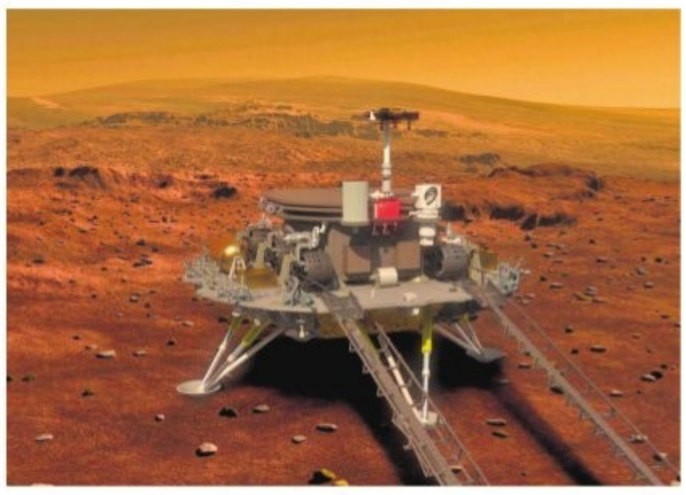
A simple surgery can save patients with heart arrhythmia from often-lethal strokes, a new study suggests. The researchers, including Richard Whitlock from McMaster University, found that removing the left atrial appendage — an unused, finger-like tissue that can trap blood in the heart chamber and increase the risk of clots -- cuts the risk of strokes by more than one-third in patients with atrial fibrillation.

CHINA LANDS ROVER ON RED PLANET FOR 1ST TIME

A successful rover touchdown on Mars is the most crucial milestone in space exploration, a feat accomplished by only 2 other countries



A concept image of the Chinese Mars lander | XINHUA via AP

SPACE

BEIJING: China's probe to Mars touched down on the Red Planet Saturday to deploy its Zhurong rover, state media reported, a triumph for Beijing's bold space ambitions and a history-making feat for a nation on its first-ever Martian mission.

The lander carrying Zhurong completed the treacherous descent through the Martian atmosphere using a parachute to navigate the "seven minutes of terror" as it is known, aiming for a vast northern lava plain known as the Utopia Planitia.

It "successfully landed in the pre-selected area", state broadcaster CCTV said in a special television programme dedicated to the mission called "Nihao Mars" ("Hello Mars").

The official Xinhua news agency cited the China National Space Administration in confirming the touchdown.

It makes China the first country to carry out an orbiting, landing and roving operation during its first mission to Mars -- a feat unmatched by the only other two nations to reach the Red Planet so far, the United States and Russia.

President Xi Jinping sent his "warm congratulations and sincere greetings to all members who have participated in the Mars exploration mission", Xinhua reported.

China has now sent astronauts into space, powered probes to the Moon and landed a rover on Mars -- the most prestigious of all prizes in the competition for dominion of space.

Zhurong, named after a Chinese mythical fire god, arrived a few months behind America's latest probe to Mars -- Perseverance -- as the show of technological might between the two superpowers plays out beyond the bounds of Earth.

'Earth friends'

Six-wheeled, solar-powered and weighing roughly 240 km, the Chinese rover is on a quest to collect and analyse rock samples from Mars' surface.

In a message published Saturday evening on the social network Weibo, the Zhurong greeted its "Earth friends".

"I'm still inside the landing pod," a post on its official account said. "Can't wait to find out what's on Mars."

The launch of China's Tianwen-1 Mars probe which carried the rover last July marked a major milestone in China's space programme.

The spacecraft entered Mars' orbit in February and after a prolonged silence state media announced it had reached the "crucial touchdown stage" on Friday.

The landing was set to be a nail-biter for the China National Space Administration, with state media describing the process of using a parachute to slow descent and buffer legs as "the most challenging part of the mission".

It is expected to spend around three months there taking photos and harvesting geographical data.

The complicated landing process is called the "seven minutes of terror" because it happens faster than radio signals can reach Earth from Mars, meaning communications are limited.

Each step had only one chance, and the actions were closely linked. If there had been any flaw, the landing would have failed

Geng Yan, an official at the China National Space Administration

EXFILE • HEALTH

Countries rush to limit travel from India

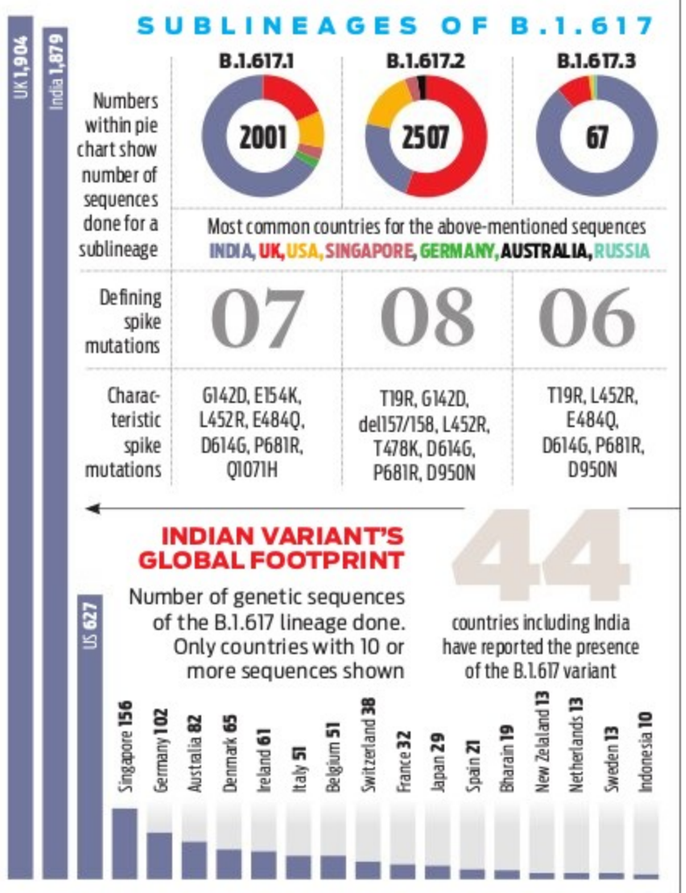
More than 30 countries have banned travel from India as cases surge in the country and global worry over the B.1.617 variant mounts. B.1.617, first detected in Maharashtra, was classifed as a "variant of concern" by the WHO recently

ISOLATING INDIA?

More countries are set to announce travel bans after the European Commission urged all EU states to apply an "emergency brake" on non-essential travel from India

EXIT FROM MALDIVES

Indian citizens who were evacuated from Maldives with a special ship INS Jalashwa are being shifted to a quarantine centre by bus, as part of a massive repatriation effort, in Kochi. Indians have been the largest single group of visitors this year to the Maldives, which has now banned travel from India. Bollywood stars such as Alia Bhatt and her partner Ranbir Kapoor are among celebrities who have been pictured using the country as an escape from the pandemic. Travellers from other countries are permitted to travel to the Maldives with a negative test but can't mingle with locals



Indian strain intensifies virus-vaccine race: Expert

HEALTH

LONDON: Britain deployed public health officials, supported by the army, to distribute coronavirus tests door-to-door in two northern England towns on Saturday in an effort to contain a fast-spreading variant that threatens plans to lift all lockdown restrictions next month.

Cases of a strain first identified in India have more than doubled in a week, defying a sharp nationwide downward trend in infections won by months of restrictions and a rapid vaccination campaign. Government scientific advisers say the variant is likely more transmissible than the U.K.'s dominant strain, though it's unclear by how much.

The government's Scientific Group for Emergencies says the Indian-identified variant, formally known as B.1.617.2, could be up to 50% more transmissible than one first recorded in southeast England last year that is now the UK's dominant strain. But they say there is a high level of uncertainty about the exact figure.

Mark Walport, a member of the advisory group, said the new variant had "intensified" the race between the virus and vaccines. "The knife edge on which the race sits has just sharpened," he said.

Critics said the government should have acted sooner to ban travelers from India. Labour Party lawmaker Yvette Cooper said the government had not barred visitors arriving from India until April 23, a decision that let in "many hundreds of new variant cases... This was predictable but it was not inevitable," she said.

Confusion reigns after US lifts mask mandate

HEALTH

WASHINGTON: To mask or not to mask?

That is the question facing US states, businesses and people in their everyday lives in the wake of the bombshell announcement by the top health authority lifting most restrictions for those fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

President Joe Biden hailed the change in guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, calling it a "great day" for America. But if the idea sounded straightforward in theory, it has raised questions about how to implement it practically -- the foremost being, how do you tell if a person is fully vaccinated?

Then there is the trauma felt by many reluctant to let go of safety measures in the world's hardest-hit country, where more than 580,000 have lost their lives to the virus.

The CDC's recommendations are non-binding, and actual policy is left for the relevant local authorities or employers to decide.

It also doesn't apply to planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation, or to medical settings such as hospitals.

The situation has left CEOs and local officials caught in a dilemma -- whether to follow the recommendations right away, or make sure people are comfortable with it.

Mask use is also a politically divisive issue, with conservative-leaning parts of the country much quicker to go without than liberal areas.

There's also the question of what major companies will do. Retail giant Walmart said Friday it was lifting its mask mandate for fully vaccinated customers and staff. Costco announced a similar policy.

But United Food and Commercial Workers, which represents 1.3 million people, came out unequivocally against. The "CDC guidance is confusing," complained the union. "Essential workers are still forced to play mask police for shoppers who are unvaccinated and refuse to follow local safety measures. Are they now supposed to become the vaccination police?"

Before, masks were important, and all of a sudden they are not... I believe there are lots of people who won't use the mask even if they aren't vaccinated

Ivan Matta, a 47-year-old from New York who works in a travel company

JUMBO ART EXHIBIT

A herd of 100 life-size elephant sculptures go on display in front of Buckingham Palace in London to raise awareness on co-existing with animals. The sculptures were made in Tamil Nadu from lantana, an invasive weed whose removal helps wildlife | PTI

Mammals can breathe via anus in emergency

BIOLOGY

A team of Japanese scientists has shown it is possible for mammals to absorb oxygen via the anus.

Intrigued by how certain sea creatures breathe through their intestines in emergencies, researchers at Tokyo Medical and Dental University were able to prove the same was true under experimental circumstances for mice, rats and pigs. They say the finding, published in *Med*, might also apply to humans who are in respiratory distress when ventilators are not available or inadequate.

For higher order animals, respiration involves breathing in oxygen and excreting carbon dioxide using lungs or gills. Some species however have evolved alternate ventilatory mechanisms. Loaches, catfish, sea cucumbers and orb-weaving spiders can also use their hindgut to oxygenate to survive in emergencies. This is called enteral ventilation via anus, or EVA.

"The rectum has a mesh of fine blood vessels just beneath the surface of its lining, which means drugs given through the anus are readily absorbed into the bloodstream," lead author Ryo Okabe said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Taiwan faces its worst outbreak

HEALTH

The island of Taiwan, which has had enviable success in containing Covid-19, imposed new restrictions in its capital city on Saturday as it battled its worst outbreak since the pandemic began. Authorities raised the alert level for Taipei, the capital, and the surrounding area of New Taipei city. The level 3 alert, which remains in effect for two weeks, requires people to wear a mask outdoors and limits indoor gatherings to five people and outdoor gatherings to 10 people. Health authorities said that 180 new locally spread cases had been confirmed. That's more than the total of 164 cases previously confirmed for the entire pandemic period. "The epidemic is gaining intensity," Health Minister Chen Shih-chung said. More cases are being identified.

Exercises for ADHD kids

STUDY

Yoga and breathing exercises have a positive effect on children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). For the study in *Biological Psychiatry*, researchers studied the effect of exercise on functions linked to voluntary regulation and control in 16 kids aged 6-7 years. The team used a special breathing exercise based on the development of diaphragmatic rhythmic deep breathing — belly breathing. Such breathing helps to better supply the brain with oxygen and helps the reticular formation to better cope with its role. "For children with ADHD, as a rule, the part of the brain that is responsible for the regulation of brain activity – the reticular formation -- is deficient," they said.

TACKLING HUNGER

Food innovations such as lab-grown algae can bridge nutrition deficit, researchers say

SCIENCE

A sprinkle of mycoprotein in your burger? Cities dotted with photo-bioreactors growing algae? Mass farming of housefly maggots?

These are just some of the food innovations that researchers say will be crucial to combat malnutrition in the face of climate change and other system shocks.

With traditional food systems facing severe threats -- including extreme heat, unpredictable rainfall, pests and soil degradation -- researchers at the University of Cambridge say that it is time to totally reimagine the field.

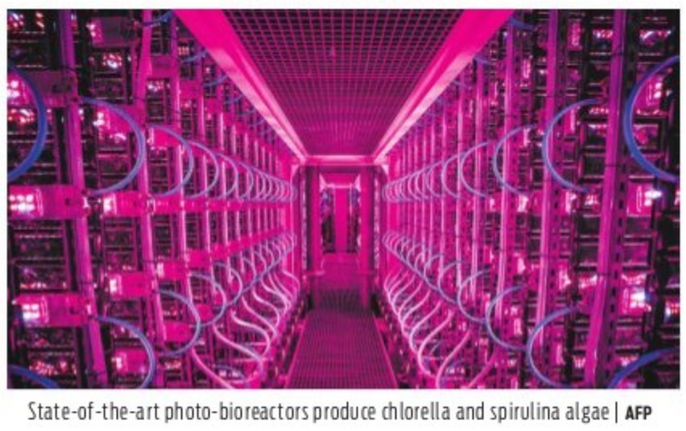
Pressure is also mounting to sharply curb consumption of meat and especially beef, a major source of greenhouse gases.

In order to improve diets and secure food supplies sufficiently to end malnutrition, they say high-tech farming methods -- some pioneered for space travel -- should be incorporated into food systems globally.

And while some of the food they suggest growing may be familiar to customers of health food shops -- single-celled algae spirulina or chlorella as well as mycoproteins derived from fungi -- others may seem even more exotic, like insect larvae.

These include "houseflies, black soldier flies, and mealworm beetles", said Asaf Tzachor, a researcher at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER) at the University of Cambridge, who led the research.

"Admittedly these are non-conventional items," he said. But as nutritious food becomes scarcer, researchers say, these types of food will likely become essential parts of our diets.



State-of-the-art photo-bioreactors produce chlorella and spirulina algae | AFP

Rich in essential nutrients -- including proteins, fats, calcium, iron, zinc and vitamins -- they could be "perfect substitutes" for meat, milk, eggs and traditional crops, Tzachor said. "You can eat them within your pasta or burgers or energy bars, for example. And these items can contain ground insect larva, or processed microalgae or macroalgae."

The paper, published in Nature Food, said that these "future foods" can be grown at scale in compact, environmentally controlled systems suitable both for urban settings and in isolated communities, such as on remote islands. The authors analysed around 500 published scientific papers on different future food production systems. They concluded that the most promising include microalgae photo-bioreactors, which use a light source to grow microorganisms.